



Jordan Times

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Sudan: Egypt sent soldiers to Halaib

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan Saturday accused Egypt of sending new military reinforcements to the disputed border area of Halaib and warned that this could have "unfavourable consequences," the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. SUNA, quoting an unidentified government security source, said Sudan regards the Egyptian act as a violation of an agreement reached during two meetings of the joint committee on Halaib that stated that the status quo be maintained until a solution is reached. In Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry referred questions on the reported reinforcements to the Defence Ministry, but officials there could not be immediately reached for comment. Halaib is a triangular enclave at the eastern end of the Egyptian-Sudanese border overlooking the Red Sea which both countries claim. Egypt claims Halaib under an 1899 agreement with Britain that set the frontier along the 22nd Parallel. Egypt gave Sudan administrative powers in the area in 1962 because of the presence of the enclave. The Sudanese security source gave no further details, but said contacts were being made by both sides to contain the situation. The Halaib joint committee has made little progress towards solving the problem.

Afghan council to meet soon

KABUL (R) — A meeting of nationwide representatives to elect a new Afghan president failed to open on Saturday but a spokesman said it would take place within a few days. The Hal-o-Aqad council of 1,500 elected representatives had been due to meet until Dec. 15, when the term of interim President Burhanuddin Rabbani ends. "We are sure that we will hold the Hal-o-Aqad council in the next few days," presidential spokesman Aziz Murad said. He was unable to give a specific date. Mr. Rabbani's failure to hold the meeting on time raised fears among other Mujahadeen leaders in the Islamic coalition that he wanted to cling to his job. His four-month tenure has already been extended by 45 days after factional fighting in August delayed arrangements for the Hal-o-Aqad council. Mr. Murad said Mr. Rabbani would remain as president until the Hal-o-Aqad could be convened, but might consult the leadership council, a fractious grouping of 10 Mujahadeen Party chiefs. A third member of the council announced Saturday in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar that he was joining the race for the presidency.

Hollah says one led in Lebanon

RUT (R) — The Hizbollah (Party of God) group said Saturday that one of its men was killed in an Israeli air strike in South Lebanon. The man was killed on the way when Israeli helicopter jets attacked a guerrilla post in the town of Toubat, a ridge of forested hills and mountains that engulfed 20 villages in the area, the group said. Israel denied that its warplanes were in the air in the south. It said the raids were in retaliation for two guerrilla attacks on Israeli South Lebanon army bases. One woman was killed and two children were injured in Israeli shelling on the town of Nabatiyah, the group said.

U.S. in carbomb explosion in Tyre

BEIRUT (AP) — A car bomb explosion wounded four people in the Rashidiyah Palestinian refugee camp near the port city of Tyre Saturday, security sources said. The explosion, which occurred on the main road to Tyre at 10:15 a.m. (0015 GMT), they said the wounded Palestinians, including a child, did not die. There was no independent confirmation from Lebanese sources on the explosion. It was part of a bloody battle between the Fatah guerrilla group and Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council group, a source identified the group as civilians.

Iranian group

Threats at risk

CAIRO (R) — A Muslim militant group in Cairo said Saturday that they would step up their "struggle" with the state forces. "We urge Muslims to be cautious because we will proceed in defending ourselves through all the available means," a spokesman said in the name of the "Islamic Front" (Islamic Front) said in a telephone statement from Cairo. He said a down by Egyptian security forces on the militants in the port of Imbaba (see page 2) was a provocation aimed at escalating the confrontation and is a threat to more oppression, terrorism and suppression. "In September the Egyptian government allowed foreigners to stay in Upper Egypt, the area of conflict between the Islamic Front and the state forces, and in the same month, it attacked tourists killing one and wounding five Germans in a bid to challenge the moment."

His says 'terrorist' group dismantled

US (AP) — Interior Minister Uthman Khalil has told lawmakers that a network of Islamic "terrorists" has been dismantled, but warned that vigilance was in order because the "age of the hydra" was over. "The page of this terrorism has been definitively turned," Khalil said Friday night in an address to legislators examining a ministry budget. But he said that "more work is needed to eradicate the roots of evil." In 1991, two military courts convicted 269 Muslim fundamentalists of attacking the security of the state. Forty-six of them, all born or sympathizers of the fundamentalist group Al Naba, served life prison terms. They were accused of fomenting a plot to assassinate President Zine El Abidine Ali.

Plan to write off Russian debt

BRUSSELS (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl will offer to write off the debt owed to former East Germany which the West Bank around 17.6 billion marks (\$11.1 billion), the daily Der Spiegel, said Saturday. An article released ahead of the summit Monday, the news said the offer Mr. Kohl would make to the German monetary union in 1990, during a visit to Moscow, ending Monday.

King given clean bill of health

ROCHESTER, Minnesota (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein was given a clean bill of health four months after cancer surgery and left the Mayo Clinic Saturday, a spokeswoman said. Mayo surgeons removed the King's left kidney and a cancerous growth in his urinary tract in August and said they expected a full recovery. The 57-year-old King left Amman Thursday, flying his private plane for the 13-hour trip to Minnesota for the checkup. He underwent tests Friday. "He's quite well. We're leaving ahead of schedule. There's no need to stay," said his press secretary, Vera Azar. The King was flying to Washington, D.C., for a private visit expected to last a few days, Ms. Azar said. She did not know when they would return home.

Following is a statement issued by Samir Farraj, King Hussein's personal physician: King Hussein underwent a series of routine, postoperative tests yesterday at Saint Marys Hospital, a Mayo Foundation Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. On Aug. 20 a team of Mayo Clinic doctors and allied health staff removed a low-grade, localized, transitional cell malignancy of the ureter. After the surgery, doctors remained confident that the entire malignancy had been removed. Yesterday's tests confirmed the complete success of the surgery performed in late August. Mayo Clinic doctors and allied health staff who conducted yesterday's tests and evaluated the results found no abnormalities. King Hussein plans to continue

to undergo routine check-ups of the urinary tract every six months, the normal course of follow-up care for patients who are treated for his type of urinary tract problem. King Hussein checked out of Saint Marys Hospital this morning. Accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, he departed Rochester for Washington, D.C. **Amnesty expanded** Meanwhile in Amman, a cabinet minister said King Hussein had reduced the sentences of 1,000 prisoners, freeing 100 convicts who have served half of their prison terms. The minister, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, said King Hussein had issued a Royal Decree covering prisoners convicted of voluntary manslaughter, rape and drug dealing and consumption. They were excluded from a general amnesty ordered by King Hussein Nov. 12 for an estimated 1,000 criminal and political prisoners and detainees. Excluded from the latest decree were inmates convicted of espionage, theft and embezzlement. The cabinet minister said the Monarch reduced five death sentences to life imprisonment, and life sentences of 30 prisoners were decreased to 15 years at hard labour. He said prison terms of another \$65 prisoners were reduced by half of the original sentence. The decree, which went into effect Saturday, was issued by the King before leaving for the United States Thursday. Saturday's commutation does



not erase the criminal record of the convicts, unlike the November amnesty that included parliament members Leith Shubailat and Yaqoub Qarash. The two were sentenced to 20 years at hard labour for allegedly leading an Iranian-backed militant group that plotted to topple the Monarchy. Saturday's commutation does

World body calls on Jordanian legislators to amend draft law

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An international organisation which seeks to promote freedom of expression and prevent censorship has heavily criticised the draft law on press and publications now being discussed by the Jordanian Parliament and called on the legislative body to abolish some of the controversial provisions in the legislation. Article 19, the London-based International Centre Against Censorship, says the draft law, if passed by Parliament, "would undoubtedly put freedom of expression and information in jeopardy." In a Dec. 4 document entitled "Jordan: Critique of the Draft Press and Publications Law," Article 19 presented a close scrutiny of some of the key provisions and descriptions included in the draft law, including licensing criteria for publications, journalists, editors and directors, and the definition of freedom of the press. Some of the articles of the law that the international organisation says should be eliminated altogether or amended to be more compatible with freedom of expression have already been approved by the Lower House of Parliament. These include:

- Defining a journalist as a member of the Jordan Press Association — the sole recognised journalists' association in the Kingdom — regardless of qualifications or experience;
- Imposing strict mandatory pre-qualifications for editors-in-chief and directors of newspapers and other publications;
- Denying foreigners and Jordanians living abroad the right to set up and own newspapers or periodicals;
- Restricting press coverage and imposing prior restraint;
- Strict censorship laws; and
- Denying journalists the right to protect their sources of information.

No official comment was immediately available on the points raised by Article 19, but government ministers and senior bureaucrats have argued that some of the provisions in the law were aimed at "avoiding duplication in the laws and clarifying certain points." **World body calls on Jordanian legislators to amend draft law** For instance, says a senior official, some of the "punishments" for violations of provisions prescribed under the draft law are much less tough in nature when compared with what the penal code of the country provides for. "In some cases the draft law sets a nominal fine and a short term in jail for serious violations of the law," said the official. "On the other hand, if the government was to apply the penal code in such cases then the violators could be fined heavily and jailed up to 15 years." Therefore, the official explained, "the draft law is much lenient in nature than the penal code and, if anything, journalists should be happy over it." But Article 19 does not think so. "Article 19 believes that if the (draft law) is approved by the members of Parliament it will inhibit the fundamental right to freedom of expression without which Jordanian and foreign journalists may not be able to exercise freely their profession or to be protected against persecution or harassment by the authorities," said the organisation. Furthermore, it said, the draft law "restricts the enjoyment of the right to freely publish and own newspapers" to such a degree that it will be impossible for anyone other than the wealthy and political parties to engage in publishing activities. It called on the lawmakers to replace the restrictive clauses in the law with "provisions which encourage those who want to engage in publishing to do so regardless of their wealth, national origin or judicial record." Another key point that Article 19 raised was "access to information." It called on Parliament to make it "mandatory for government officials to allow journalists access to government files and to provide a mechanism through which journalists and the public are guaranteed access to administrative documents." At the same time, journalists should also have the right to protect their sources of information, it said. "Confidentiality of sources is one of the fundamental guarantees of the free flow of information and should be protected in all circumstances," Article 19 affirmed. In a sitting last week, the Lower House endorsed Article 42 of the draft law which restricts topics that the press could cover. According to

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An American Marine looks at a Somali child eating a bowl of rice during the first food distribution carried out by U.S. troops in Mogadishu Saturday (AFP photo)

U.S. gunships destroy three Somali battlewagons

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — U.S. helicopter gunships destroyed three Somali battlewagons Saturday after coming under fire in Mogadishu, a U.S. military spokesman said. "A pair of Cobras were on a routine reconnaissance mission and they were fired on by an APC (armoured personnel carrier) with a 50-mm machinegun," spokesman Fred Peck told reporters. "They immediately returned fire with TOW missiles and cannon. They destroyed that vehicle and another two vehicles accompanying it. We don't have any estimate on casualties on the ground but we do know that all three vehicles were destroyed." According to Mr. Peck, the weapons on the armed vehicles were recoilless rifles and a machine gun. The Cobras were from the USS Tripoli and were on a routine reconnaissance flight over the city. It was the second case of casualties this week involving the U.S.-led multinational force in

Somalia to feed the country's starving. On Thursday, a Somali truck rammed a French checkpoint in Mogadishu. Troops fired on the vehicle, killing two Somalis and wounding seven. On Saturday, the U.S. escorted its first food convoy to northern Mogadishu. The four trucks were shielded by circling helicopter gunships and outnumbered by armed vehicles. The convoy had been held up twice since Operation Restore Hope's first troops landed Wednesday — first by rain, then by a squabble over whether U.N. or Marine troops would carry the food on this first, symbolic trip. The Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers who were in this seaside city when the Marines arrived prevailed, and their white trucks carried the precious cargo — 20 tonnes of rice, beans and oil donated by France. "It's nice to see some relief work after our days," said Carolyn Snyder, a relief worker for Care International. The food was taken across a

line that divides the capital into sectors controlled by Somalia's two main warlords, who on Friday agreed to end hostilities and move their fighters out of the capital by Sunday. In the grand scheme, the convoy was hardly a panacea for this parched, scrub-covered country. In the interior, where U.S. forces have yet to penetrate, hundreds of people are still dying every day, and two million are threatened with starvation. The Marines are proceeding with great caution in this violent and volatile land. Relief agency workers in southern Somalia, centre of an apocalyptic famine fuelled by two years of clan killings, anarchy and pillage, said they feared thieving gunmen would loot to the last unless the U.S. troops arrived soon. They said the agencies could not work effectively until foreign forces, acting on a U.N. mandate to use all necessary means to keep famine relief out of the

Israelis kill 1, injure 92 Gazans

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers opened fire on hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied Gaza Strip Saturday, killing one and wounding at least 92, Arah reports said. The army confirmed the death, and said about 40 Palestinians were treated in hospital. The widespread violence erupted hours after the army lifted a five-day curfew imposed on much of Gaza following the killings of three Israeli soldiers by militants last Monday. A closure of the whole strip remained in effect for a fifth day Saturday, barring Gaza's 800,000 Palestinians from entering Israel, the army said. The worst clashes Saturday came in the Jabaliya refugee camp where troops opened fire after scores of residents stoned an army patrol. Khaled Askari, 26, was killed by a shot in the chest, and 22 other protesters were wounded by gunfire, Arah reporters said, quoting hospital officials. The army reimposed a curfew on Jabaliya that had been lifted earlier Saturday, Israel Radio said. Another 30 Palestinians were shot and wounded in protests in Gaza City and the refugee camps of Nuseirat and Deir Al Balah, the Arah reporters said. In addition, 34 Palestinians were treated for rubber-bullet injuries, beatings and tear-gas inhalation. Askari's death brought to 994 the number of Palestinians killed

by Israeli troops or civilians since the December 1987 start of the revolt against Israeli occupation, according to an AP count. Israel confined more than 400,000 of the 800,000 Gaza Strip Palestinians to their homes and barred the rest from leaving the area on Tuesday after three soldiers were killed in an ambush on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. In the pre-dawn hours of Saturday, the army lifted curfews over all but one of the strip's eight refugee camps. Demonstrators streamed into the streets, many in anticipation of the fifth anniversary Monday of the founding in Gaza of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, Palestinian sources said. In Gaza City, intensive street battles erupted after soldiers tried to break up a march marking the Hamas anniversary. A force of about 100 troops then clashed with hundreds of demonstrators in the city's central Palestine Square. A Reuters reporter was struck in both legs by gravel from a cannon. Soldiers repeatedly fired live ammunition, rubber and plastic bullets and tear-gas as crowds hurled stones and other objects at them. Demonstrators, including many women and elderly men, shouted curses and Islamic slogans in Hebrew and Arabic at the troops, some of whom shouted back: "Your father is a Jew."

Protests continue in Sanaa; 12 killed in riots

SANAA (R) — Small crowds demonstrated for the third straight day Saturday in the Yemeni capital Sanaa after riots in which 12 people were killed. Witnesses said police fired shots in the air in one district in Sanaa to disperse a group of demonstrating students. The Interior Ministry said some rioters had earlier fired at police. More demonstrators were arrested Saturday while central security troops prevented people from gathering on the streets. The riots, which swept across six cities beginning on Wednesday and struck the capital Thursday, are in protest against inflation running at an annual rate of 100 per cent and unemployment. The country lost \$1.4 billion in annual remittances from a million Yemenis expelled from Gulf states when Sanaa showed support to Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Kuwait. The rich oil states also stopped vital financial aid to Yemen. Witnesses said the fresh unrest in Sanaa was quickly contained. The Interior Ministry earlier said 13 people were injured and 37 rioters were arrested during Friday's riots in Sanaa and EBB, further south. It said the four provinces which witnessed violent acts on

Wednesday and Thursday were quiet. Previous official figures said 12 people had died and 90 were injured. The ministry said many private, public and police cars, shops and buildings were damaged in the riots. Hundreds of shop windows and signs were shattered in Sanaa. Traffic on Saturday was light and almost all shops closed down soon after the unrest started before noon. Police and central security vehicles, packed with troops in full riot gear, were deployed at strategic road junctions in Sanaa while other police cars patrolled the streets. Yemen's Religious Leaders Society said the people had the right to express their feelings towards soaring prices but urged them to calm down. "Ballot boxes are coming to you and through them you can express your feelings with wisdom and free choice," it said, referring to the first general elections which were postponed from November to April next year. The riots erupted Wednesday when students and workers took to the streets of the southern city

(Continued on page 5)

EC agrees on Denmark, inches closer on budget

EDINBURGH (R) — European Community (EC) leaders agreed Saturday on a special status for Denmark under the Maastricht Treaty and were within reach of a landmark accord on future financing to put the floundering EC back on the rails. Officials said the 12 leaders were also close to agreements to give the four biggest EC states extra seats in the European Parliament, settle a long-festering dispute on the parliament's site and open entry negotiations with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden from Jan. 1. On the second day of their Edinburgh summit, the leaders endorsed a decision under which Copenhagen will not take part in a single EC currency or a common defence. In return, Denmark pledged not to stop others from moving ahead with political, economic and monetary union. "Our 11 partners accept that Denmark gets a special deal. All the Danish requests have been

satisfied," a triumphant Prime Minister Poul Schluter told reporters. "This is a great day for Denmark." Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said the deal would enable the minority Danish government to call a second referendum next April or May. He was confident it would overturn last June's rejection of the Maastricht Treaty. He paid tribute to the British EC presidency for brokering the deal, which he said removed "uncertainty over the community's future which had caused turmoil on currency markets." Final approval of the Danish deal, vital to relaunch the community after a six months of political setbacks and monetary chaos, hinged on resolution of a dispute between richer and poorer states over the EC budget for the next seven years. Officials said the leaders were very close to a deal to increase the ceiling on EC revenue to 1.27

per cent of total gross domestic product (GDP) by 1999 from the present 1.2 per cent, with only Britain holding out for a lesser figure. The deal would provide the four poorest EC states — Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland — with a 15 billion ECU (\$18.6 billion) "cohesion fund" to modernise their economies in time for European monetary union later this decade. Spain, the most militant of the poorer countries, and Germany, the main EC paymaster, accepted the figure in principle and officials were working on the detail of whether a reserve fund should be deducted from that figure or added on top of it. British Prime Minister John Major delayed the start of the summit's second day to sound out leaders individually on the disputes over funding and Denmark's exemptions. Figures flew

all day as the budget negotiators inched closer. Mr. Major had a lengthy private meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, painted by British officials as the most awkward partner. He also met German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and leaders of the Netherlands, which opposed a big budget rise, and of financially troubled Italy. On the issue of Maastricht ratification, Belgium and Spain proposed that the summit should set Britain and Denmark a deadline of July 1 next year to ratify the treaty but the others reluctantly accepting Mr. Major's admonition not to corner Britain. "Don't push it because that isn't going to help us get it through (parliament). What actually matters is getting it through rather than speeding it up," Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont told British radio.

Mr. Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand agreed at breakfast talks that the treaty should be ratified as soon as possible and expressed concern at British foot-dragging. French presidential spokesman Jean Musieill told reporters. Officials said agreements had been endorsed to make the EC more open and less intrusive — transparency and subsidiarity in EC jargon — and on a package of measures to inject about \$20 billion of new investment into Europe's flagging economies. A foreign policy statement drafted by foreign ministers for summit approval condemned the systematic detention and rape of Muslim women in Bosnia as part of an ethnic cleansing policy and ordered an EC investigation. It also voiced firm support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's ambitious free-market reforms as he fights for power with conservatives in the Russian parliament.

Princess Anne makes history by remarrying

CRATHIE, Scotland (Agencies) — Britain's Princess Anne married her naval commander fiancé Timothy Laurence Saturday in a private Scottish ceremony, giving cause for cheer in a week of marital agony for the British monarchy. Queen Elizabeth's daughter arrived at the small parish church near the Balmoral royal estate and swept straight inside, kicking off a low-key ceremony which will make her only the second top royal in British history to remarry after divorce. The princess, wearing an off-white suit and snowdrops adorning her dark brimless hat, was whisked past waiting reporters to the cheers of well-wishers in a range rover car which parked outside the church entrance. Princess Anne's marriage, a subdued contrast to the big-budget royal weddings of the past, caps a tumultuous week of marital nps and downs for the monarchy. It follows only three days after the official separation of the heir-to-the throne Prince Charles and Princess Diana, a

royal crisis of epic proportions. The embarrassment about Princess Anne being a divorcee and marrying in church — the first top royal to enter a second marriage since Henry VIII wed six wives four centuries ago — pales by comparison. The royal family put on a resolute show of unity for this rare happy event, in which the 42-year-old princess marries a commoner five years her junior who once worked in royal service, as an equestrian or officer of the household. Queen Elizabeth, looking sprightly and smiling despite the week's trauma, headed a select group of royal guests including her husband Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and a solitary Charles, who arrived before the bride in an unconventional motorcade of range rovers. Princess Diana has decided to stay away, reflecting her new position as a semi-crowned spouse with her own household who gets on with her own life as a royal superstar and campaigner for charities.

Cyprus minister worried over Canadian withdrawal

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Canada's withdrawal of its 575 U.N. peacekeeping troops from Cyprus will create a problem for peacekeeping in the divided island, Defence Minister Andreas Aloxentis said Friday.

"If the Canadians are not replaced by troops from other contributing countries, undoubtedly, it will cause a problem," Mr. Aloxentis told Reuters.

"After Canada's withdrawal, I'm afraid UNFICYP (the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus) will be unable to do its job properly. It's as simple as that," Mr. Aloxentis said.

He was commenting on an announcement in Ottawa that Canada will withdraw its peacekeeping force from Cyprus after 28 years due to commitments elsewhere and the lack of progress in talks on a settlement between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

"It seems that Canada's reasons to withdraw are not only political. But it is definitely the wrong time to do so. They could have waited until the ongoing peace negotiations had some real progress," Mr. Aloxentis said.

The Canadian pullout and cuts already announced by other contributing countries will reduce the UNFICYP force from 2,078 to only 913 men, Mr. Aloxentis said.

However, he dismissed any possibility of military action by Turkish troops who have occupied the north since 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

"A new aggression is out of the question," he said.

He also said that the government of Cyprus had proposed to raise significantly its financial contribution to maintain the peacekeeping force.

Turkey has 35,000 troops occupying northern Cyprus, facing about 10,000 Greek Cypriot National Guard troops — combined forces that vastly outnumber the shrunken U.N. contingent.

"I hope the United Nations won't leave us in the lurch," said Andreas Georgiou, a Nicosia shopkeeper. "We need the peace force as a guarantee against a Turkish attack."

But for the foreign peacekeepers who patrol the dividing line in long, often boring shifts, it is frustrating that decades of negotiations have led nowhere.

"We've been here so long," said gunner Bale Foster, 23, of Sault, Manitoba, who was manning an eagle's nest observation post in ruined central Nicosia Friday.

"After 28 years, if the problem hasn't been solved, they should

negotiate," Mr. Foster said. "Or they should just forget it and build a Berlin wall" to separate the two communities.

His watchpost overlooks a grim vista of ruined buildings, barbed wire and booby-trapped shops. In places, the green line that snakes through the city is only a few metres wide.

Frequently, Greek and Turkish Cypriot troops hurl insults at each other and sometimes they aim weapons. Occasionally they shoot — but such incidents are rare, largely because the U.N. troops are there to defuse incidents before they escalate.

The commander of Canadian forces in Cyprus, Murray Swan, said the decision to pull out his entire contingent was "a surprise, actually."

Asked how the cutback would affect the peacekeepers' ability to prevent conflict, he acknowledged that "our capabilities, the resources available to us, are slipping away."

Colonel Swan, 47, of Belleville, Ontario, said it was difficult to justify keeping the force in Cyprus as U.N. soldiers are needed in new hotspots like Somalia and Bosnia.

But that still leaves open the question of who is to keep the peace on the island.

Iraqi agency assails U.N. inspectors

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's state-run news agency referred to U.N. weapons inspectors as "stray dogs" in a report Saturday on a search of Baghdad's Olympics Committee, which is headed by Saddam Hussein's son.

"A gang of the stray dogs that are commonly known as inspection teams stormed the building of the National Olympics Committee yesterday (Friday) morning and opened some cupboards," the agency said in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia.

"But as usual, they found nothing and left the building disappointed," it said.

"The inspection was a bold violation of the rules and conventions of the International Olympics Committee as well as a transgression against a civilian organisation that has no connection whatsoever to a military effort," the three-paragraph report in Arabic said.

It was not clear if the Iraqi News Agency meant the inspectors had forced their way into the committee's offices when it said they "stormed" the building. It did not mention any confrontation before the search.

Iraq's state-controlled media seldom report on the inspectors' missions. When it does, it usually is reflecting government disapproval of a search of a specific site.

The agency did not say if the chairman of the National Olympics Committee, President Saddam's eldest son, Uday, was at the building on Friday.

Uday, 28, has several other offices in his capacity as also chairman of the Union of Journalists, publisher of the Babel newspaper and head of the Youth Association.

At present, there is a team of 20 chemical and biological weapons experts in Iraq. With them, there are three inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who stayed behind after a nuclear team left Baghdad earlier this week.

It was not clear how many experts were involved in Friday's search.

Elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was ordered by the U.N. Security Council in a Gulf war ceasefire resolution that followed the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

Forty-seven teams so far have gone to Iraq to destroy chemical and biological arsenals, a nuclear weapons programme and ballistic missiles and ensure that Baghdad cannot revive such schemes.

Egyptian confesses plan to attack cinemas

CAIRO (AP) — At least 613 suspected Muslim extremists have been arrested in a major security swoop on a Cairo district, including an alleged cell leader reported to have been planning attacks on 22 cinemas.

Another two suspects were caught Friday as they tried to enter a luxury hotel, officials and newspapers said Saturday.

The security operation in the western Cairo suburb of Imbaba, which involved 14,000 policemen, entered its fifth day Saturday.

"We are going to continue that operation until we clean Imbaba completely of the extremists," Major General Galal Al Shamy, top spokesman at the Interior Minister, told the Associated Press.

The Imbaba dragnet, which began Tuesday, was preceded and accompanied by smaller police sweeps in southern Egypt, where extremists mounted many attacks on police, Christians and foreign tourists this year, killing 70 people.

Security officials and newspapers said that at least 613 suspected Muslim militants have been arrested at Imbaba.

The crackdown signalled an increasingly tough government policy in resisting the extremists, who want to replace president Hosni Mubarak's administration by a Muslim theocracy.

Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa, in charge of internal security, summed up the new policy in any address to parliamentarianism this week. "The only language we are going to use against the extremists is force...the language of arms."

In an interview with the government-owned weekly October published Saturday, Mr. Musa said that since he took his post nearly three years ago, about 2,700 political and criminal suspects have been detained.

The minister did not mention the Imbaba operation and the interview apparently was granted earlier.

Friday's arrest of Sheikh Gaber Mohammad Aly, the alleged emir, or leader, of Islamic extremist cells at poor and overcrowded Imbaba was splashed across the front pages of Cairo newspapers.

"I ordered by boys to attack 22 cinemas in Cairo and Giza with explosives in an attempt to divert the attention of police from Im-

baba," Sheikh Aly was quoted by the newspaper Akhbar Al Yom as saying. "That way, police would have loosened their grip in Imbaba and maybe I could have gotten away."

On Thursday, three suspected militants were arrested after they created panic in two downtown cinemas by firing blanks and popping crackers. No-one was hurt.

Security officials consider Sheikh Aly's arrest a major prize of the Imbaba operation. They said authorities had been incensed by some Western media reports picturing Sheikh Aly as running "a state within a state" at Imbaba.

Officials at the Gezira Sheraton hotel in Cairo said security officers Friday stopped two bearded men from entering the hotel. Militants usually sport long beards.

Rafael Khalil, the hotel's lobby manager, told the Associated Press Saturday that one suspected Muslim extremist was arrested as he tried to enter but denied newspaper reports that he carried incendiary bombs.

A security official at the hotel, who declined to be named, said two bearded men were handed over to police. He said preliminary investigations showed that one of them had a criminal record.

Mr. Khalil said the 520-room, 27-story hotel is "very well guarded," with about 60 security employees working in shifts round the clock in addition to policemen posted around the Nile side building.

The dead in Muslim extremist violence this year included a British woman tourist. More than 130 people were wounded, including five Germans, two Britons and three Russians.

Previously, Muslim extremists focused their attacks on the Christian minority and police. But last summer they began targeting foreign tourists to embarrass the government and undermine the industry, the country's main foreign exchange earner.

The attacks affected tourism, with officials reporting a drop of up to 40 per cent in the last three months. But cancellations seem to have levelled off and the Sheraton's Khalil said the hotel now has 90 per cent occupancy. He estimated occupancy at other big hotels at between 70 and 90 per cent.

Khomeini son appointed to cultural body

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's supreme leader has appointed the radical son of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as a member of a council entrusted with ridding the Islamic republic of Western influences.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Hajatollah Ahmad Khomeini was named a member of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution on Friday.

IRNA quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who took over as supreme leader after Ayatollah Khomeini's death in 1989, as describing the council as one of the most useful revolutionary institutions.

Ayatollah Khamenei called on the council headed by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Thursday to campaign against video films to protect Iranian youth from western cultural influence.

Ahmad Khomeini, who has

long been associated with the more radical interpretations of his father's Islamic policies, was until recently seen as among militants who have lost the power struggle in Iran to Mr. Rafsanjani's more pragmatic supporters.

His appointment will be widely seen as fresh evidence of a new radical twist in Iran. Diplomats in the region have noticed a sharp toughening of Iran's anti-Western rhetoric and policies since last month's election of Democrat Bill Clinton as the next president of the United States.

IRNA said Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to Ahmad Khomeini's "eagerness to indulge in fundamental efforts in cultural fields" and said he expected members of the council to "endear the revolution's culture and cultural developments and make all their decisions on the basis."

In Thursday's speech, to the council, Ayatollah Khamenei

also voiced concern about an anti-Islamic trend in Iran's universities, including removal of Islamic-oriented social science professors and a proliferation of western-type subjects.

The warnings also appear to underline worries about the popularity of Western cultural values among both the masses and the elite nearly 14 years after the victory of Iran's Islamic revolution.

"Video has turned into one of the principal means of spreading decadence and moral corruption," Ayatollah Khamenei told members of a cultural policy-making body.

"Taking along-term view, the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution should consider ways of dealing with this problem so as to protect the people, especially the youth, from this all-threatening danger," he said.

VACANCY

The British Bank of the Middle East is seeking to recruit a few clerical staff. Candidates should be proficient in English and possess a good university degree. They should be outgoing personalities with sales skills and be effective communicators in both written and spoken English. Candidates should be under 27. Interested parties should submit their applications along with the following:

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Jordan Times

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

EC to lend \$6.2m to Palestinian hos

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) said it had decided to lend five million European currency million to private hospitals in the occupied territories. The loan, intended to finance the hospitals for 10 months, will be supervised by the Dutch red cross. There said in a statement the money was designed to meet the needs of the hospitals during a critical period, and further deterioration in the health of the indigenous population.

Explosion destroys shop in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — A bomb explosion destroyed a shop in Kuwait city suburb Saturday night, the fifth such attack since Kuwait city suburb since liberation, the Interior Ministry said Saturday. Major Saleh Al Mishan, a ministry spokesman, said that took place in Kharait before midnight (2100) caused no casualties. The four previous blasts since the Iraqi occupiers in February 1991 had targeted vital infrastructure, which is mostly inhabited by bedouin. An explosive device was placed inside the shop, but did not big it was. Violence has markedly increased since the recent months, security incidents have included attacks on lives of a comedian and his son, a university dean, and controversy over Islamic veiling and two citizens to government blames a "fifth column" of Iraqis and their violence. Security has been one of the major issues in Kuwait's first post-war parliament. Deputies have an Interior Ministry for not doing enough to enlarge the p and implement laws on everybody. Interior Minister Ahmad Al Humoud Al Sabah was quoted Saturday in daily Al Watan as saying the government was seriously considering admitting women into the police force. He said a commission formed soon to study the proposal.

Gunmen kill Algerian paramilitary gen

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen shot dead an Algerian paramilitary in broad daylight Friday, the national force said. The man, a staff sergeant, was killed about 11.30 went shopping in a market in the Algiers district of Beni-ou-Rachid. The official news agency APS said, quoting the paramilitary force, that more than 180 members of the security forces had been killed since last February, in ambushes blamed on Islamic fundamentalists.

Palestinians expelled from Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Swedish government has expelled two Palestinians suspected of "terrorism," a spokesman said Friday. The two men had resided in Lebanon, said the police spokesman, Lars Engberg. But not confirm whether they had been expelled to Lebanon, said the Swedish news agency, TT, the two men, aged 25 and 27, were flown out of the country early Friday night. They were not wanted to stay where they have been taken because they protect them against unnecessary suffering. Lars Engberg, security police inspector, was quoted as saying by TT: "I said to TT that the two men were expelled in accordance with Swedish law on terrorism. The two men left their families in the southern city of Goteborg, it said. It was unclear whether families would also leave the country."

Iran reports quake close to Iraq border

NICOSIA (R) — A strong earthquake jolted an area province close to Iran's western border with Iraq on Friday, Iranian news agency reported Saturday. It is geophysicists, centre of Tehran University as saying it registered, which measured five on the open-ended Richter 1926 GMT. It gave no details of terrain in which it occurred or on its effects.

Kuwaitis to join Somalia operation

KUWAIT (AP) — Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al-Sayid said Saturday as saying 200 Kuwaiti troops will leave to join Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. Sheikh Ali said Al Anba daily that the Kuwaitis will stay in Somalia as long as they were needed. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have pledged troops to the United Nations effort to distribute relief supplies in Somalia. Kuwait has decided to participate in the U.S.-led effort demonstrated in the "importance of measures that support international security," Kuwait hoped it could have participated with a big force, Sheikh Ali told Al Anba. "But the circumstances the area and the continuation of Iraqi threats necessitate alertness and extreme caution to abort any attempts to sovereignty of Kuwait." The emirate is still trying to get small military that was devastated by the Iraqi invasion expected to spend an estimated \$9 billion on buy equipment for its armed forces.

Israel tells U.N. of concern

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel expressed its concern U.N. secretary-general Friday over a current wave of anti-Semitic and xenophobic outbursts in many countries as governments to punish those responsible. "It is the duty of the world to remember the atrocities of the past and not to allow to cast their ugly shadow upon the future," Israeli U.N. representative Gad Yacobi said in a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. "The flames set by racism and bigotry memories of the horrible inferno of Nazism, which consumed lives of tens of millions from many nations and destroyed the Jewish people." The Israeli envoy, who did not mention country by name, said hate crimes had targeted refugees, seekers, foreigners and others. "Across Europe, there are more than 1,000 organisations with an anti-Semitic orientation he added. Referring to recent statements by Israeli condemning racist and anti-Semitic incidents, he said: "We should enact appropriate legislation and severely punish the commit acts of racist violence. It is our duty and our duty to condemn this threat without hesitation, and to put an end

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

Dr. In Salah Church Tel. 661757
Terramata Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 685326

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623804, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for showery rain, in Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 06/13

Amman 06/13

Agaba 11/21

Water Authority 04/15

Jordan Valley 11/20

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 11/20

Min./Max. temp. 06/13

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Jordan Valley 11/20

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 11/20

Min./Max. temp. 06/13

Amman 06/13

Agaba 11/21

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 11, Agaba 19, Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Agaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

ADMAN:

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad ... 846070

Dr. Mohammad Ali Azah ... 752971

Said Tawad ... 752971

Dr. Hana Mansour ... 751971

Firas pharmacy ... 661912

Pendons pharmacy ... 776336

Al Azma pharmacy ... 657025

Natrukh pharmacy ... 623672

Al Salem pharmacy ... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945

Shamout pharmacy ... 637660

Fifth circle pharmacy ... 631411

Samir pharmacy ... 661898

Talal pharmacy ... 621366

Yakal pharmacy ... 624425

Al Ataa pharmacy ... 777172

Al Azozini pharmacy ... 688661

Habib pharmacy ... 771557

AMMAN:

Dr. Ali Al Omar ... 272032

Alqada pharmacy ... 697444

Dr. Ghazal ... 997944

Khashif pharmacy ... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111

Civil Defence Department ... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate ... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ... 199

Rescue Police ... 192, 621111, 637771

Fire Brigade ... 89928

Blood Bank ... 73132

Highway Police ... 843402

Traffic Police ... 896390

University Department ... 63021

Hotel Complaints ... 660800

Price Complaints ... 661176

Water and Sewerage ... 877467

Amman Municipality ... 787111

Complaints ... 787111

Telephone Information ... 121

Overseas Calls ... 010230

Central Amman Telephone ... 623101

Repairs ... 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 773111

Radio Jordan ... 774111

Water Authority ... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

Electric Power ... 815615

Company ... 636381

RJ Flight Information ... 68-53300

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ... 68-53300

HOSPITALS

ADMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre ... 813833/32

Khashif Maternity, J. Amn ... 6442816

Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn ... 642442/2

Amman Maternity ... 642362

Malles, J. Amn ... 636140

Palestine, Shamsi ... 664174/4

Shamsi Hospital ... 669131

Usda ... 845845

Al-Musader Hospital ... 667272/2

The Islamic, Abdali ... 666127/3

Al-Majidi, Abdali ... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajir ... 777107/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf ... 771172/6

Army, Marka ... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital ... 6224090

Amn Hospital ... 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital ... 09983223

Zarqa National Hospital ... 09900360

Ibn Sina Hospital ... 09986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital ... 09990990

IRBID:

Princess Beama Hospital ... 02272555

Great Catholic Hospital ... 02272725

The Al Nafces Hospital ... 02427100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital ... 00314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

For information, consult the Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)

06:30 Agaba (RJ)

06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)

06:30 Vienna (RJ)

06:30 Tunis, Cameroon (RJ)

11:00 Rome (RJ)

11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:30 Cairo (RJ)

20:00 Riyadh (RJ)

20:30 Jeddah (RJ)

20:45 Damascus (RJ)

20:45 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)

21:15 New Delhi (RJ)

21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

21:15 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)

22:15 Bangkok (RJ)

22:45 Sanaa (RJ)

09:50 Beirut, Rome (AZ)

10:25 Cairo (AZ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (GF)

12:30 Beirut (GF)

14:30 Moscow (SU)

16:50 Larnaca (CY)

19:50 Beirut (ME)

13:15 Doha

16:05

17:45

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price

Apple

Banana

Cucumber (medium)

Beans

Cabbage

Carrot

Corn

Cucumbers (large)

Cucumbers (small)

Onion

Peas

Spinach

Tomato

Garlic

Green pepper

Lemon

Marrow (large)

Marrow (small)

Onion (dry)

Onion (green)

Orange

Pepper (hot)

Pepper (sweet)

Potato

Spinach

Tomato

Mint

Coriander

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 11, Aqaba 19, Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.	Khalaf pharmacy 985417	Company 636381	Other Flights (Terminal 2)
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
NIGHT DUTY			
EMERGENCIES			
HOSPITALS			
FOR THE TRAVELLER			
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT			
ARRIVALS			
DEPARTURES			
MARKET PRICES			

هكذا من الأصل

Home News

Queen gives speech in NY

NEW YORK (J.T.) — Queen Al Hussein spoke towards the end of last week about the state of the Middle East and her endeavours to promote economic development in the region at the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations in New York. The Queen was invited to address the club's 250 members and guests in the United States. The Queen focused her speech on Jordan's current political and socio-economic developments.

Utilisation of nuclear energy in water industry discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Water consumption in Jordan and the other countries increased significantly in the past few years mainly due to population growth, improvement in living standards, expansion in the irrigation sector and the water reform projects, according to Jordan's water authority.

Factors related to water resources such as poor rain in most regions, desertification and the increase of pollution are further aggravating the situation, said the ministry's General Manager Mutaz Al Bilbeisi.

Bilbeisi was addressing on Monday the opening session of a day training seminar organised by the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) in cooperation with the ministries of water and energy and the energy and mineral resources in Jordan.

Delegates from five Arab countries in addition to Jordan discussed topics related to utilisation of nuclear energy water studies especially the location of underground water resources and protection against contamination. Arab countries including Jordan are in need of preventing any pollution of their water resources on one hand, and developing alternative resources on the other in order to cope with the increase in demand on water, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

According to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Kawa, last year Jordanians consumed 833 million cubic metres of surface and underground water of which 178 million went for drinking purposes.

The minister told a meeting in Amman early this week that nearly 85 per cent of the total water falling on Jordan is lost through evaporation and only five per cent seeps down to replenish the aquifers.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has set up a special laboratory to measure environmental atomic radioactive isotopes and resorted to other modern techniques in cooperation with the international atomic energy agency in a bid to promote exploitation of water resources.

Mr. Abdul Wabab Zoubi, the secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral resources, told the meeting that the ministry employed nuclear technology in order to carry out 16 different projects related to energy, water and mineral resources exploitation. The AAEA which was founded in 1988 helps Arab countries to apply nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The agency groups the following members: Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine, Libya, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq Kuwait and Sudan.

Dr. Mahmoud Kofahi, the agency director of projects, said that \$2.25 million budget has been assigned by the agency for the coming year in order to provide assistance to Arab countries and to organise training seminars.

Islamic Front makes its presence felt

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) is wasting no time in establishing its presence in the country's political arena, as a representative of Islamic oriented movements, mainly the Muslim Brotherhood.

Three statements issued by the party Saturday clearly reflected the ideology and stand of the Muslim Brotherhood on the deployment of U.N. troops in Somalia, the situation in the occupied territories and the recent violence between Hindus and Muslims in India.

The IAF was sanctioned by the Ministry of Interior Wednesday becoming the fifth legal political party in the Kingdom. The Front is largely comprised of Muslim Brotherhood members but some of its main activists are not associated with the Brotherhood.

Its membership is open to Christians and women. In a strongly worded statement on what it called "The American

Invasion of Somalia," the Front said the U.S. is using the cover of the United Nations to impose its hegemony on a strategic part of the world.

The statement echoed condemnation of the deployment of U.N. troops in Somalia by the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament before the Front was sanctioned by the government. The IAF statement lashed out at Arab and Muslim countries for their complicity in dealing with the crisis in Somalia and accused them of "being greatly responsible for this new colonial American attack on Africa."

The statement said "the attack could be a preliminary step to extending support to the John Garang rebellion in South Sudan and an effort to abort the economic growth in the country." The IAF urged the "nation" to rise against what it called the American occupation of a Muslim and Arab country under a human cover.

It also condemned European

participation in the U.N. forces in Somalia as an attempt by European countries to establish their presence in the changing global balance of power and the contribution of Arab troops to the forces it castigated as a "ritual of loyalty to the new world master."

The Front also condemned an attack by Hindus on an ancient mosque in central India and demanded that the Indian government end the crisis by rebuilding the mosque and punishing those responsible for it.

Expressing support for the Palestinian intifada as an unwavering expression of Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation, the Front called on Arab countries to place the Palestinian issue above their differences and extend support to Palestinians.

The Front reiterated the Brotherhood's position on refusing to concede any part of Palestine to Israel so that the struggle against the Zionist plan of occupying the whole area will continue.

Conference calls Arab writers to be at forefront of progress

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the slogan: "Arab Writers Facing Contemporary Challenges," the Eighteenth Arab Writers Conference was inaugurated Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre by Minister of Culture Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra.

The opening statement to representatives of 12 Arab countries was made by Mohammad Al Matwi, Secretary General of the General Arab Writers Union who said: "Writers should be at the forefront of progress in any country... We have come to Jordan with the hope that it would be the key to our cultural unity and to a unified stand towards progress and development."

President of the Jordan Writers Association (JWA), Fakhri Ka'war, said in his address to the conference: "If intelligentsia in the Arab world is seeking the promotion of their status, the only path to take is democracy."

"Living in a democratic country and enjoying its fruits should prompt us to advocate it to our brethren in all Arab countries," he said. "What Amman was years ago and what it is now is one major witness of the progress we made."

The week-long conference, traditionally held every two years, groups delegations from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Palestine, Libya, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Mauritania, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Jordan. The conference's activities will include lectures on the challenges facing Arab culture and Arab writers in general, a festival of poetry recitals and seminars on children's literature.

"This is a major event for all Arabs to embark on a unified act to improve the cultural role in the development of the Arab society," Mr. Ka'war said.

A writer from Lebanon, however, showed scepticism about future changes in Arab countries, and he was pessimistic about the role of intelligentsia in their development. "Progress in any field has to be accompanied with progress in the economic and political fields," said the writer Mas'oud Daber. "We always come to discuss issues but writers are not able to change things overnight."

During the interval of the conference, Minister of Culture Dr. Samra told the Jordan Times: "This conference, which is held for the first time in Amman, is a major event in the Arab World." He voiced his discontent however, on the differences which exist between the two writers associations in Jordan, the JWA and the JWU (Jordanian Writers Union).

"I had personally tried to smooth over differences several times but all of my attempts have ended in failure," he said.

As tradition dictates, each time the conference is held, the host country will be the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Arab Writers Union.

11th political party registered

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Freedom Party became the 11th political grouping to apply for political party status Saturday when it handed in its application to the Ministry of Interior.

The group is led by Fawaz Zoubi and is liberal and pan-Arab in leaning. Mr. Zoubi is a known member of the Jordanian political establishment. His party is left of centre and supports pan-Arab causes.

While it is not a member of the pan-Arab and leftist umbrella group, the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA), the Freedom Party is expected to have similar political stands.

The ministry has 67 days to study the group's application before being obliged by law to either accept or deny it political party status. In case of a denial the group may appeal the decision in a Higher Court of Justice.

The application comes after five of the 10 groups which have applied for legal status were accorded legalisation by Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul.

Mr. Shoul said Saturday that application was carefully studied. The minister said he was hurt by press commentaries that his refusal to grant the Jordanian Communist Party and the Arab Baath Socialist Party legal status was undemocratic.

"Our judgement was based entirely on legal interpretation," he told the Jordan Times. "In law, unlike mathematics, there are different ways to interpret the same thing. But the interpretation was within the framework of the law and the final decision will be made by the judiciary."

Mr. Shoul said the two rejected political groups were within their legal rights in appealing his decision to the Higher Court of Justice. The Jordanian Communist Party has already announced that it would do so.

"We may interpret the law differently but that does not make one or the other decision illegal; it makes them different," Mr. Shoul said.

Fearing that he may influence the final decision of the judiciary, he said he wanted to make no comments about the ministry's decision to refuse legalisation to the two political groups.

"I have complete confidence in the abilities of our judicial branch, regardless of whether they agree with my interpretation or not," he said.

Industry in occupied territories to be surveyed

AMMAN (Petra) — An international conference to discuss means of supporting the industrial sector of the occupied territories is to be held in Amman soon, according to the Arab League.

Dr. Jawad Naji director of economic planning at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said that the Arab League's industrial development organisation meeting due in Rabat Monday will decide on a date for the conference.

Convening such a conference in Amman is important as the Palestinian people's cause is receiving increasing support worldwide and the Palestinian people are escalating their struggle at all fronts said Dr. Naji. The number of industrial businesses in the occupied Palestinian lands, he said, now stands at 4180, most of which are small size companies.

Some industries however now face serious difficulties because of the occupation he said. The Palestinian industrial sector suffers from a lack of a national policy he said.

Other difficulties range from the high cost of imported industrial machinery, lack of sufficient primary materials and low productivity as well as a lack of sufficient markets he added. All these points, plus the lack of proper infrastructure, for these industries will be scrutinised by the conference which is being organised by the Arab League and the PLO, Dr. Naji added that financiers are hard to find and the decline in production is continually aggravating the unemployment situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Jordan Saturday took part in a meeting held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo to discuss education in the occupied Arab lands.

Dr. Bataineh said that the Rome declaration affirmed the world community's commitment to implement programmes designed to improve health conditions by adopting agricultural, health, education, population, environmental, economic and social strategies to ensure a balance between population growth and available resources.

According to the declaration, the nutritional challenges facing the world are enormous. Meeting them will require full commitment at every level from governments to grass roots, said the minister.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Lower House to hear 1993 fiscal budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will Sunday discuss the 1993 fiscal budget during which it will hear the statement of the 1993 budget by Finance Minister Basil Jaradneh. The House is expected also to receive replies by the ministers of water and energy, finance, energy and mineral resources, public works and municipal and rural affairs and the environment to several queries by deputies. The House will also resume discussion of the law on publications.

Judiciary delegation visits Arabiyat

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdulatif Arabiyat received Saturday at the Parliament house members of the Cession Court who congratulated him on being elected as House speaker. Dr. Arabiyat stressed at the meeting the House's desire to enhance cooperation between the legislative and judicial authorities with the aim of promoting the role of law in various fields of life. Dr. Arabiyat voiced the House's pride in the independence of the Jordanian judiciary and its role in the democratic era, stressing the need to affirm the supremacy of law.

IAF helps 1,887 families in 1992

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) is organised during the current year 44 rural markets at its centres around the country. A total of 1,887 families benefited from these markets, earning between JD 30-100 monthly. The number of societies which participated in QAF's rural markets programme was 33 societies. As part of the programme, several workshops were organised by QAF to encourage families to grow vegetables at home. Some 880 female trainees were enrolled in these workshops.

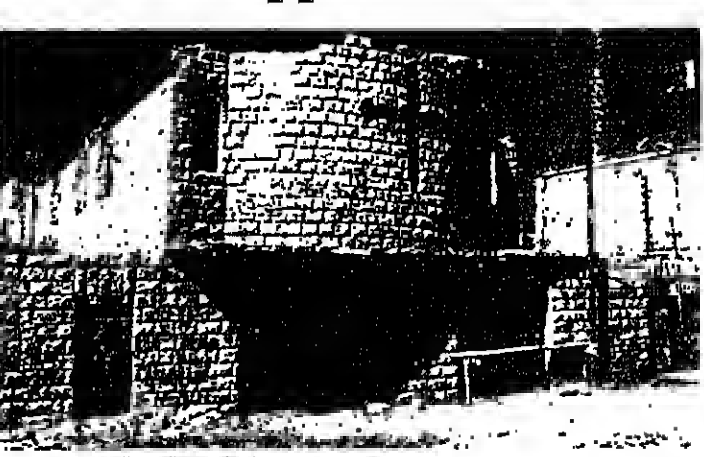
Civil Aviation Authority to discuss air traffic, in Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will participate in the meetings of the Arab Civil Aviation Agency due to start in Morocco Monday. The agency will discuss in its three-day meeting the final draft of the agency agreements, its by-laws, a report of its temporary budget and the contributions of the member states. The agency will also set up working groups to study the effects of European unity on the future of Arab Civil Aviation and to draw up a unified Arab policy for air transport. The CAA will be represented at the meetings by its Director General Ahmad Juweiber who left Amman for Morocco Saturday.

Arab Orthodox call for support in feud with Greek church

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Orthodox community is planning to submit a formal request to the Jordanian government and parliament to amend a law on the functions of the Orthodox Church in Jordan and Palestine with the purpose of re-establishing Arab community rights on the one hand and to halt malpractices by the Greek Orthodox patriarchate in Jerusalem on the other.



A defaced church in Zababdeh town

The announcement was made at a press conference Saturday by Raouf Abu Jaber, head of the Arab Orthodox community in Jordan.

Jordanian law is supposed to regulate the relationship between the Greek clergy and the Arab Orthodox community but this has to be amended, said Dr. Abu Jaber, so that it can cater to the interests of the local Arab community in Jordan and occupied Palestine.

He said that the fifth conference by the Arab Orthodox community held in Amman last Tuesday demanded amendments to the law and called for the reactivation of the Orthodox central council and the higher Orthodox executive committee to take charge of all matters related to

the community on both sides of the river, noted Dr. Abu Jaber.

The Greek clergy, led by the patriarch in Jerusalem is disposing of Arab church estate by leasing or selling it to the Israelis and at the same time they are neglecting the interests of the church and the Arab Orthodox community, he charged. Church and Arab Orthodox estate, such as the cemetery of Jaffa, have been given to the Israelis for Jewish settlements. Educational institutions are also being neglected, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

"We are approaching the government for help by amending or substituting the 1958 law which

provided for the formation of 94 member holy sepulchre brotherhood of whom 90 per cent are Greek and mixed laymen-clergy council, stressed Dr. Abu Jaber. He said out of the 18 member council only eight are Arabs and since nine votes are needed to approve any decisions concerning the church estate, none of the Arab views or proposals are considered, he explained.

The patriarch who is elected by the 18 member council should according to law give attention to the Arab community concerning their needs, he stressed.

The malpractices and the persisting complaints of the Arab

community recently drew the attention of the Greek consul in Jerusalem who called for strengthening of Greek-Arab relations.

The conference also drew attention to the fact that a visit to Jordan last October by the Greek foreign ministry under secretary Virginia Tsouderon was "connected with this matter. The envoy, who carried a message to King Hussein from Greek President Constantine Karamanlis came to Jordan and the Occupied Territories to examine the situation concerning the patriarch's malpractices, the conference reported.

According to Dr. Abu Jaber the Greek patriarch of Jerusalem is in Athens in connection with the problem and the right of the Arab community.

The patriarch who has church estate registered in his own name was probably disposing of lands and other property in a manner aimed to favour the Israelis and to retain the Greek clergy's upper hand over Arab Orthodox community property, Dr. Abu Jaber said. He said that the Arab laymen community is now intensifying efforts to enlist the help of the 32 Arab clergy members of the Orthodox church to support the community's demands for reforms.

World declaration to combat malnutrition announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh said in Amman Saturday that delegates from 150 countries have approved a world declaration which aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

The declaration was taken at the end of a week long meeting conference organised in Rome by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

million people mostly women and children lack sufficient basic food supplies. Hundreds of millions of people are also suffering as a result of communicable diseases resulting from malnutrition and polluted water, said the minister.

Dr. Bataineh said that the Rome declaration affirmed the world community's commitment to implement programmes designed to improve health conditions by adopting agricultural, health, education, population, environmental, economic and social strategies to ensure a balance between population growth and available resources.

The minister was speaking upon returning to Amman from the meeting which, he said, was called to deal with means of helping world nations to overcome hunger and malnutrition. The Rome declaration expressed the world's deep concern over the growing number of children below the age of five who are suffering from malnutrition and the fact that more than 2,000

According to the declaration, the nutritional challenges facing the world are enormous. Meeting them will require full commitment at every level from governments to grass roots, said the minister.

Handicrafts on show

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of ceramics and weaving works, produced by students and young artisans who have recently graduated from the Salt Handicraft Training Centre was opened Saturday evening at the Philadelphia Hotel under the patronage of Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, the Chief Chamberlain, with the attendance of Princess Majda.

The centre is a joint project implemented by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), with cooperation from the Salt Development

ment Corporation and technical assistance and funding from the Italian government and Cotecno, Rome.

The centre aims at preserving, reviving and developing Jordanian handicrafts; training a new generation of crafts people; forming a national team of trainers at expert level; creating job opportunities for crafts people and documenting and conducting research on various Jordanian handicrafts.

Linotype-Hell hold open day

Ideal Systems Co., who recently acquired the agency of Linotype-Hell in Jordan, held an open day on 5 December at the Amman Marriott Hotel announcing their new agency. The event was attended by several of those interested in the field of publishing, printing and design.

On display were the latest Linotype-Hell technology and the products were divided into three sections: publishing, colour separation and design and graphics.

"We foresee a promising future for Linotype-Hell in Jordan," said Bashar Arafah, manager of the Graphic Arts Centre. "The attendees showed a great deal of enthusiasm especially when they realised the degree to which the quality of their work can be improved using these products," he added.

IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

"Advertisement" Tender Invitation

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. invites tenderers to submit offers for the following tenders:

- Tender No. 16/M/92 supply of spare parts for M.A.N. truck tractors.**
- Tender No. 16/R/92 supply of spare parts Renault truck tractors.**

A copy of tender terms and conditions could be bought for the sum of JD 25 each, non-refundable, from the company's main offices in Jabal Amman, opposite to the Tunisian embassy, during official working hours (0800 - 1400) daily excluding Fridays and official holidays starting from Saturday, Dec. 12, 1992.

Monday Jan. 25, 1993, (1200 hrs) is the closing date for accepting offers.

Cost of advertisement will be borne by those awarded the tenders.

Dr. Shaker Mahadin
Director General

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of ceramics by the Jordanian artist Mahmoud Taha at Alia Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by Haid Nasser at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by painter Ufemia Rizk at Yarmouk University.
- Exhibition of paintings by Soumer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- Sculpture exhibition by Mona Saudi at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Al Fuhis.
- Exhibition of rugs and ceramics by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, at the Plaza Hotel from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m.
- Exhibition of weaving and ceramics, at the Philadelphia Hotel from 9:30 a.m. till 7:30.
- Exhibition of paintings and silkcreens by three artists from Gaza Faysal Al Hamed, Kamel Al Maghamsi and Laila Shawa at Abdul Hameed Shomani Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Nebaya Khalef at Baladina Art Gallery.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

A jump in GDP and GNP

Economic planners normally use gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator to measure the real growth in the activities of a national economy because it covers the overall economic activity within the country, that lends itself to planning and control.

Gross national product (GNP) may also be used as an indicator of the well-being of a people, or to measure per capita income available to the nationals of a certain country. GNP is equal to GDP after adding incoming remittances from expatriates and income received from investments abroad, and subtracting outgoing remittances of guest workers and interest and profits payable to foreigners on their domestic investments including debt.

At one time, the variation between GDP and GNP of Jordan was huge in favour of the latter. However, the difference started to decrease since the early eighties, due to stagnation of remittances and increasing interest burden on foreign indebtedness. In 1991 the variation was reduced to no more than JD 18 million, or a fraction of 1 per cent. This trend was reversed in 1992 when the difference rose to JD 92 million or 3 per cent.

According to the current preliminary estimates, GDP experienced a huge growth rate in 1992, as high as 15 per cent in current prices, or 11.7 per cent in constant prices. Certain pessimists threw doubts on this pleasant fact. They claimed that even if GDP growth rate was that high, it was certain that GNP did not grow at a similar rate: its growth might be negative, they asserted.

We assume that this claim represents real fears resulting from lack of information, not wishful thinking. Therefore, we like to reassure those pessimists that GNP in Jordan rose in 1992 at a higher rate than GDP. The growth rate of this indicator may reach 17.5 per cent in current prices or 14.1 per cent in real terms using 103 per cent as a deflator, according to IMF experts' calculations.

To demonstrate this fact, by using the available tentative estimates, we point out that incoming remittances received in 1992 were estimated at \$700 million, up from \$450 million in 1991, while outgoing remittances of guest workers rose to \$86 million in 1992, compared to \$61 million in 1991. Thus net remittances stood at \$614 million in 1992, instead of \$389 million in 1991.

At the same time, Jordan's receipts of interest on the foreign assets invested abroad by the banking system rose from \$114 million in 1991 to \$120 million in 1992, while interest incurred on Jordan's foreign indebtedness, whether actually paid or not, rose from \$477 million in 1991 to \$596 million in 1992, thus making the net returns on foreign investments in 1991 negative by \$362 million in 1991, and \$476 million in 1992.

The final net results of positive and negative returns of production factors abroad, namely labour and capital, rose from \$27 million in 1991 to \$138 million in 1992. Translating dollars into Jordanian dinars at \$1.5 = 1 JD, we find that GNP in 1992

was JD 92 million above GDP while the difference was one million in 1991.

To sum up the above detailed exercise, we can conclude that GDP in Jordan rose from JD 2773.1 million in 1991 to JD 2885.1 million in 1992, a growth of 15 per cent in current prices. GNP rose from JD 2791.1 million in 1991 to JD 3280.9 million in 1992, a growth of 17.5 per cent. Using a deflator of 103 per cent, the real growth rates would be 11.7 per cent and 14.1 per cent respectively.

The economic growth experienced by the Jordanian economy in 1992 was phenomenal and real. The credit goes to the favourable circumstances coupled with internal prudent management. Using the GDP indicator remains more meaningful, in more conservative figures.

If pessimists would like to enjoy looking at things through glasses, we advise them to predict that the growth rate in 1993 is by no means sustainable. It could not hold for long. Current forecasts put the expected growth rate in 1993 minimum of 6 per cent in real terms, after allowing for an inflation rate of 4.5 per cent.

Pessimists should pray for the continued application of economic reforms against Iraq and the failure of the current peace process, otherwise the growth rate in 1993 may be higher than anticipated.

Kissing and smiling: A deadly facade

A HANDSHAKE and hug with smiles all around followed by an announcement of a ceasefire: Was that the beginning of the end of the bitter rivalry between Somali warlords Mohammed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammad and their responsibility for the death of hundreds of thousands of their compatriots? No, definitely not. For all purposes, the stage-managed scenario that hit world headlines Friday was nothing more than an essential component of the strategies of both tribal chieftains in carrying the favour of the United States, which has self-assumed the responsibility of protecting relief supplies and officials in the war-torn country.

The very fact that neither of the two warlords included a call on their henchmen to surrender their weapons is an indicator of the still-open options of the two. More sinister still is the possibility that both sides are using the American umbrella to regroup for an ultimate battle for power after the departure of the U.S. force as and when that occurs.

Indeed, Ali Mahdi, the self-proclaimed interim president, has repeatedly said in private that he was ready to step down from presidency for the sake of "national reconciliation." But that was ages ago, and, with the apparent diminishing of the military strength of Aided and the ever-shifting alliances on the ground in Somalia, there is little incentive still left for Ali Mahdi to dust off his pledge and make good his promise.

In the meantime, the American presence in the country has precluded the possibility of Aided launching a final showdown with Ali Mahdi, who has been living in perpetual fear of just that.

On the other hand, Aided is showing every signs of anxiety and impatience to embrace the U.S. as the ultimate saviour of Somalia and eagerness to project himself as Uncle Sam's man in the Horn of Africa. Obviously the former army general and diplomat wants to use the American military presence in his country to his own political advantage.

So, all said and done, the Somali scenario is quite simple: The two leaders, for reasons of their own, chose to embrace and kiss each other for the benefit of the American camera; no remorse over the continuing agony of their country, which has already lost almost an entire generation to starvation and violence. No-one expected them to beat their chests in agony for the dead or announce a 10-year mourning period. But the least the two could have done is to announce their retirement from active politics and make way for a young generation of Somalis capable of transcending the deadly clan-based politics which has plagued their country for decades.

Arguments that their departure from the scene would deprive Somalia of an effective leadership does not hold much water. If anything, they should be guided by the reminder that it was under their "effective leadership" that hundreds of thousands of Somalis died and continue to die every day.

In any event, the massive task that awaits the Americans, whether they like it or not, whether they are mandated or not, whether difficult or easy, whether interference or otherwise, is to bring about political stability to Somalia. The first step in that direction is the elimination of vested interests like those represented by Aided and Ali Mahdi.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SO FAR nothing in the eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations gives the slightest indication that it will be fruitful or that the Israelis will soften their intransigence a little to open the way for meaningful discussions, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. It is reasonable to believe that the peace negotiations are arduous and complicated, but it is also clear that the Israelis are playing for time and stalling, offering nothing to the Arab parties, the paper said. The Israelis believe that they ought to wait until Bill Clinton has been established at the White House so that they can discuss real business and therefore they are not in a hurry to arrive at any agreement with the Arabs, the paper continued. It said that wasting time has always been the game of the Israelis who allowed 1992 to pass by without reaching any agreement along any track with the Arab parties. In light of this situation, one can conclude that Israel's tactics do not take into consideration real and lasting peace with the Arabs and that the negotiations are being steered only in the direction of safeguarding Israeli interests, regardless of whether this approach will ensure stability and security for the Middle East. The paper said that in light of this situation, the Arab parties have no alternative but to persevere and continue their demands for land in exchange for peace in any settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper said that unity among the Arab parties is a must if the Arabs are to attain an honourable and durable peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dabiq daily described the ousted Somali President Siad Barre as an American agent and similar to those Arab leaders who do not leave their chairs until and unless their countries are devastated by civil strife and other tragedies. Taher Al Udwan said that Mr. Barre, who started off his career as a communist was soon transformed into an American agent in the Horn of Africa following the arrival of the first shipment of American bribes to his palace. The writer said that Mr. Barre, faced with drought and starvation had appealed to Arab leaders for help and found in the Iraqi president a friend of the Somali people and one who shipped to Somalia 3,000 tractors to help in the farming of the country. The writer said that Mr. Barre sold the tractors and pocketed the money, leaving his country's economy in shambles and its agriculture in devastation. The writer said that the Arab World is rich with mineral and other natural resources yet Somalis and others have no sufficient food to eat and many of the Arabs live below the poverty line only because of the abuse of power by many of their leaders. The writer said that examples of Siad Barre can be found in other Arab states whose peoples are deprived of their basic rights.

Centre against censorship concludes:

Draft press and publication law restricts freedom of expression

Following is a critique of Jordan's draft press and publications law issued by London-based Article 19, an international centre against censorship.

1. Introduction:

IN JULY 1992, the Jordanian National Assembly (the Lower House of Parliament) began discussions on the proposed new press and publications law which the government drafted in June 1991. The new law will replace the 1973 press and publications law which contained a series of restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and information and which was widely criticised by Jordanian journalists and human rights organisations.

The draft press and publications law (DPPL) results from the democratic reforms which the government of Jordan initiated following the November 1989 parliamentary elections. These reforms included the abolition of martial law which had been in force since 1967 and the recognition of opposition political parties.

Although the DPPL declares in Article 3 that "freedom of opinion is guaranteed to every Jordanian citizen" and that "Jordanians are allowed to express their opinions freely through speech, writing, photography and printing as means of expression and information," the law contains many provisions which, if passed by the Parliament in its December 1992 session, would undoubtedly put freedom of expression and information in jeopardy.

Article 19 is particularly concerned about the following issues which appear to contradict Jordan's constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom of expression:

- * Licensing of journalists, editors and directors of publications and printing facilities;
- * Licensing of newspapers and periodicals;
- * Access to information;
- * Protection of journalists' sources;
- * Restrictions on press coverage and prior restraint.

2. Licensing of journalists, editors and directors

2.1 Licensing of Journalists

The definition of a journalist originally proposed by the government was: "any person who meets the conditions for membership in the Journalists' Association (JA) or chooses journalism as a profession" (Art. 2).

However, when the draft law was presented to the Lower House of Parliament, in its July 1992 session, deputies amended the provision and restricted the definition of a journalist to a person who is a member of the Journalists' Association, the sole recognised journalists' association in the country.

2.2 Licensing of editors

Article 13 interferes in the choice of editors-in-chief by requiring among other things that:

- "Each periodical must have an editor-in-chief who is:
- a) a Jordanian;
- b) fluent in the language in which the periodical is published and, if published in more than one language, he should be conversant with the other languages;
- c) not acting as an editor-in-chief for more than one periodical;
- d) not performing any other function in his own or other publications;
- e) not convicted in a criminal case involving dishonour or public ethics;
- f) a permanent resident of the country."

Article 15 requires "a specialised (non-political) periodical" to have an editor who:

- a) "is a Jordanian;
- b) is not convicted of a criminal act or a crime of honour;
- c) has a scientific qualification pertinent to the specialisation of that periodical."

2.3 Licensing of directors

Article 16 interferes with the appointment of directors in the following professions: publishing houses, research and studies institutes, translation services, advertising agencies, printing shops, distribution centres and bookshops. The Article declares that the appointed manager must:

- a) "be a Jordanian national;
- b) not have been convicted of a crime or misdemeanour that involves his honour or public ethics;
- c) have the following qualifications:
- (i) a university degree and suitable experience after university, to be decided by the Minister of Information, if he is to head a research or study institute;
- (ii) must have at least a high school certificate and appropriate experience, to be decided by the Minister, if he plans to be a responsible director of a distribution firm, a printing shop, a bookshop, a translation office or an advertising agency."

3. Licensing of publications

Article 6 of the DPPL states that "any person or political party has the right to own and publish newspapers or magazines according to this law."

But Article 18 limits considerably the enjoyment of this right by declaring that "an owner of a periodical must:

- a) be a Jordanian residing in the Kingdom;
- b) not be convicted of crime or a misdemeanour involving honour or public morals."

The article not only fails to define the meaning of "honour" and "public morals," but more seriously devalues foreigners and Jordanians living abroad the right to establish and own newspapers or periodicals.

Article 19 of the DPPL further restricts the right to issue and own a newspaper or a magazine by adding that:

"a licence to publish a periodical is obtained only by:

- a) a journalist as defined in this law and who meets the conditions prescribed herein;

- b) companies that are established and registered for the purpose of publishing periodicals; (non-Jordanians are not allowed to have shares in such companies);

- c) political parties."

This article provides yet another example of the government's attempts to control the press. In a democratic society, newspapers may have to register as a formality but are not required to apply for licences, and furthermore, anyone has the right, under international human rights law, to own a publication regardless of his or her national origin.

The law also restricts the right to publish by imposing a minimum capital investment. Article 24 declares that "a licence for a daily newspaper will only be issued if the publisher has 50,000 Jordanian Dinars (JD) registered capital, 50 per cent of which has to be deposited;" and Article 24(b) states that "for a magazine, the registered capital shall be JD 15,000 with 50 per cent deposited." Authorised political parties are exonerated from this financial requirement.

Additionally, Article 20 makes the enjoyment of the already restricted right to publish conditional on the decision of the Minister of Information by stating that "the application for a licence shall be submitted to the minister, who will recommend to the Council of Ministers within 30 days whether to grant a licence or not. If the licence is refused, the applicant may appeal to the higher court of justice."

Article 26 of the DPPL gives the authorities the power to revoke the licence of any publication, except those owned by political parties, in the following cases:

- "a) if it was not published within six months of the date of issue of the licence;
- b) if any of the following ceased to publish without a legitimate reason:
- (i) a daily for three sequential months,
- (ii) a weekly for 12 consecutive issues,
- (iii) other publications for four consecutive issues."

4. Access to information

Article 5(a) guarantees to the press the right to "collect information, news and statistics of concern to citizens from different sources, and analyse this information, circulate it, publish it and comment on it within the limits of the law."

Furthermore, Article 7 guarantees that "officials and non-officials shall facilitate the task of the journalists or the researcher to review their programmes and projects."

This is the only article that hints at granting the press free access to the works of government institutions. The article, however, falls short of obliging government officials to reveal information on issues of public interest or to provide a mechanism through which journalists can be ensured access to public information. The article is also insufficient in ensuring the public's right to know of their government's actions.

5. Protection of journalists' sources

Article 5(d) recognises the right of the newspaper, the news agency, the editor and the journalist "to keep secret the sources of their information except from the judiciary."

Article 19 believes that this article which forces journalists to reveal their sources to a court of law, constitutes a further limit to the already inefficient process of news collection in the country. If this provision is approved, it will virtually muzzle all officials in possession of information of public interest. The fear of being prosecuted for revealing information that the government might consider secret will force civil servants to remain silent even about information which the public has a right to know.

6. Restricting press coverage and prior restraint

Article 4 states that "the press is free to operate and present news, information and comments and to publish articles on culture and science within the limits of the law." Article 5 defines press freedom as:

- "a) informing citizens of events, trends of opinion and information that concern the local, Arab, Islamic and world societies;
- b) enabling citizens to publish their opinions;
- c) guaranteeing citizens, political parties, cultural and social institutions and trade unions the right to express their opinions, thoughts and achievements through the use of publications."

The rights contained in Articles 4 and 5 are seriously circumscribed by the provision of Article 42 which lists a series of restricted or prohibited subjects. Article 42 states that "publications are prohibited from publishing the following:

- (i) information which criticises the King or the Royal Family;
- (ii) information on the size of the armed forces, its arms or armament, its location or its movements unless authorised by a responsible officer in the forces; or any news items or sketch or comment that touches on the armed forces or the security forces;
- (iii) articles or material that degrades any of the religions or sects protected by the constitution;
- (iv) articles that might harm national unity or instigate crime or increase hatred and conflict in society;
- (v) the minutes of Parliament's secret sessions;
- (vi) articles that might reduce confidence in the national currency;
- (vii) articles or information that insult the heads of state of Arab, Muslim or friendly countries."

Violation of this article by an editor, journalist or writer is punishable by imprisonment "for a period not exceeding six months and a fine of between JD 200 and JD 5,000 or both." If the offence is repeated, the sentence becomes imprisonment "for a

period not exceeding one year and a fine ranging from JD 10,000 or both" (Art.52(a)).

Article 19 is also concerned that prior censorship imposed on publications by the 1973 Press Law, incorporated into the DPPL in Articles 37 and 38.

Article 37 requires that the director of any printing shop " lodge with the Department of Press and Publication (Ministry of Information) two copies of any non-periodical at his shop before distribution." Article 38 obliges a wishing to print a book in Jordan "to submit two copies of manuscript to the Department of Press and Publication printing." The director of the Department, the article a refuse permission to print the book if it contains "matters by the law...and the author or publisher shall have to litigate the decision at the higher court of justice."

7. Conclusion

The restrictions that the DPPL imposes on freedom of expression and information severely limit the ability of the press and the public to scrutinise government activities in the environment that is slowly beginning to prevail in Jordan.

Article 19 believes that if the DPPL is approved by the Parliament it will inhibit the fundamental right to freedom of expression without which Jordanian and foreign journalists not be able to exercise freely their profession or to be against persecution or harassment by the authorities.

The restriction of that right also results in a lack of information on national and international issues which undoubtedly leads to the formation of opinions and views and encourage participation in the democratic process.

8. Recommendations

Article 19 believes that the DPPL imposes many restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression which will jeopardise itself and urges members of the Parliament government to reject the DPPL for the following reasons:

Licensing of journalists

* The provision of Article 2, requiring compulsory membership of the Jordanian Press Union as a condition for journalists violates Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and thus must be rejected. Article 20 states that:

"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association."

"2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association."

Furthermore, Article 19 believes that the licensing of journalists violates the individual's right to the full use of the media restrictions, as a means of expression or of imparting information and ideas. Therefore, Article 19 urges that the licensing of journalists be deleted and that access to the profession of journalism be restricted to anyone regardless of political opinions, ethnic background or nationality.

Licensing of editors and directors

* The authorities' interference in the choice of editors and directors of newspapers or other media institutions, by Articles 13, 15 and 16 infringes on the freedom of public choice whoever they deem suitable to edit or manage the business, regardless of national origin.

Article 19 recommends that members of Parliament delete provisions.

Licensing of Publications

* The right to freely publish and own newspapers is a right without which freedom of expression cannot be guaranteed. The DPPL restricts the enjoyment of this right to a degree that it will be impossible for anyone other than the political parties to engage in publishing activities.

Article 19 urges Members of Parliament to reject Article 24 which put severe restrictions on the right to publish and replace them with provisions which encourage those who engage in publishing to do so regardless of their wealth, origin or judicial record.

Article 19 also strongly urges Members of Parliament to delete the provisions of Article 20 which compel publishers to apply for a licence and which stipulate that the licence is granted on the decision of the Council of Ministers.

Access to information

* Parliament should reinforce the provision of Article 5 making it mandatory for government officials to allow journalists access to government files and to provide a mechanism through which journalists and the public are guaranteed access to administrative documents.

Protection of journalists' sources

* Confidentiality of sources is one of the fundamental principles of the free flow of information and should be protected in all circumstances.

* Restrictions on Press Coverage and Prior Restraint: The list of prohibited or restricted topics exceeds permitted limitations under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Political Rights, which Jordan ratified in 1975. Article 19 recommends that Members of Parliament repeal without delay the provisions of Article 42.

* The institution of a system of prior censorship as provided in Articles 37 and 38 is a flagrant violation of the right to freedom of expression and the principles guaranteeing the free flow of information and ideas and should be abolished without delay.

Features

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

hundreds of plunderers, fanned out across Somalia.

"If they leave it much longer, a gunner will go on one last marksmanship exercise," said Mervyn, one of only two members of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) evacuated its last two

pariahs on Thursday from the southern port of Kismayu, where at least 60 people were reported killed in fighting earlier this

week. "They are doing targeted killing," said Sean Devereux, one of the two UNICEF workers flown

Mogadishu from Kismayu. "If there was more information about when the Marines are coming, people could have held it. Why are they so secretive about everything when even the

as are saying they'd welcome them?" Mr. Devereux asked. The more than 3,000 U.S. and

and soldiers in Mogadishu, guard of a multinational force at least 35,000 troops, say they

are still too thinly stretched to sort relief convoys to remote areas where hunger and disease

is most acute. Despite the ceasefire declared today, security in the capital is

far from total. General Aideed's men fought at Mogadishu Saturday in a

ad which has killed four people and wounded five in the last 24

hours, witnesses said. Gunmen robbed two Western

workers, from UNICEF and a World Food Programme, as they crossed back into south

Mogadishu after checking arrangements for food deliveries to the north and at least six

hundreds of foreign journalists are reported. A Kenyan sound recorder

working for Italian television was hit, wounded and robbed of his equipment Friday outside a

Mogadishu mosque where he and crew were working, his employer said.

Hassan Ali's employer, Mohin Dhillon of Africapix, said the

Indian was flown for treatment to a U.S. warship and was in good condition in a Mogadishu

hospital Saturday. Ali was believed the first journalist wounded since the Marines

died. In another incident, three Associated Press photographers

attacked by a mob that had killed one of the journalists. There had

been concerns large numbers of reporters would create tension

mostly Muslim Somalia. American and French troops

on a U.N.-mandated mission and the rampant looting that prevented aid workers from

bringing food to the hungry in this city where some 300,000 people

have died of disease and starvation. The first cargo planes in six

weeks have been arriving in Mogadishu since Wednesday,

with the port secured, a lighter carrying enough wheat

to feed a million people for two weeks is to dock Sunday.

Article 19

(Continued from page 1)

Article 19 document, the provision "exceeds permissible limitations" of the International Covenant

on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified in 1975.

Article 19 describes itself as "an international human rights

organization which works to promote the right to freedom of expression

and to combat censorship." It says that its mandate is taken

from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which

states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this

right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek,

receive and impart information and ideas through any media and

regardless of frontiers."

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this

right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek,

receive and impart information and ideas through any media and

regardless of frontiers."

Iraqis dig another river

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, once the land of two rivers and now three, is following up with a fourth — to be named the mother

of battles. The Baath Party daily Al Thawra said on Friday the water-

way, named Umm Al Ma'arik, or mother of battles, Iraq's term for the Gulf war, would run from 11

kilometres south of Nassiriya to the southern port of Basra.

It would have a total length of 190 kilometres. The paper said four million

cubic metres of earth had already been moved as part of the project

to push back the desert and increase the amount of agricultural

land. Iraq, which before the Gulf crisis imported 70 per cent of its

food needs, has been working to boost domestic production to help

it survive U.N. sanctions imposed after its August 1990

invasion of Kuwait. Iraq on Monday inaugurated the Saddam River, a 565-

kilometre waterway running between the Tigris and the Euphrates.

It proclaimed it the biggest irrigation scheme in the Middle East and an example of what could be achieved despite the

embargo. The United Nations has expressed concern that Iraq may be trying to weaken the 3,000-year-

old southern wetland sanctuary of the marsh Arabs, a traditional

refuge for fugitives from Baghdad's authority. Shiite rebels and army desert-

ers fled there when Iraqi troops crushed their post-Gulf war rebellion against President Saddam

Hussein. Iraq denies any link between the two.

In a separate report, Al Thawra said a project had been completed to pipe drinking water to some 100,000 people in the

marshland areas of Chebaysah, Al Fahud and Al Hamma.

One-third of Israelis favour anti-Arab measures — poll

TEL AVIV (AP) — An opinion poll has provoked shock and anger in Israel with findings that a large minority favours pressuring Arabs to emigrate and identifies with vigilantism in response to Arab resistance attacks.

The survey came at a time when Israel is deploring Germany's allegedly lenient attitude to racism and anti-Semitism. It underscored the unease of some liberals who feel Israel is no less lenient towards its own, home-grown racists.

Critics bristled at the comparison, arguing that it ignored the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But Avraham Burg, who commissioned the poll as chairman of parliament's education committee, defended the parallel.

"We can no longer ignore the fact that in Israel we have racism and hatred of foreigners similar to what is going on today in

Germany and France," he wrote in an introduction to the survey. "You cannot fight anti-Semitism before you fight the internal hatred in your own society," he added in an interview.

Events in Germany have caused widespread anguish in Israel. The issue dominates

media debate and has been discussed by the cabinet and parliament. One organisation reported Thursday that the scenes of violence and anti-Semitism seen on television here are reviving old

traumas among World War II survivors. Mr. Burg, number three in

Israel's ruling Labour Party, denied it was commissioned because of events in Germany, but called on Israel's educators to "take the

devil of racism by its horns." "Comparing the hatred of the enemy in a war with any type of hatred of foreigners — the very

comparison is something worthy of skinheads," said Uri Elitzur, spokesman of the opposition

National Religious Party. "In time of war, when there is an enemy and blood is being

shed, feelings of revenge aren't always something to be fought against. Sometimes it's a healthy feeling

Mr. Elitzur told Israel Radio.

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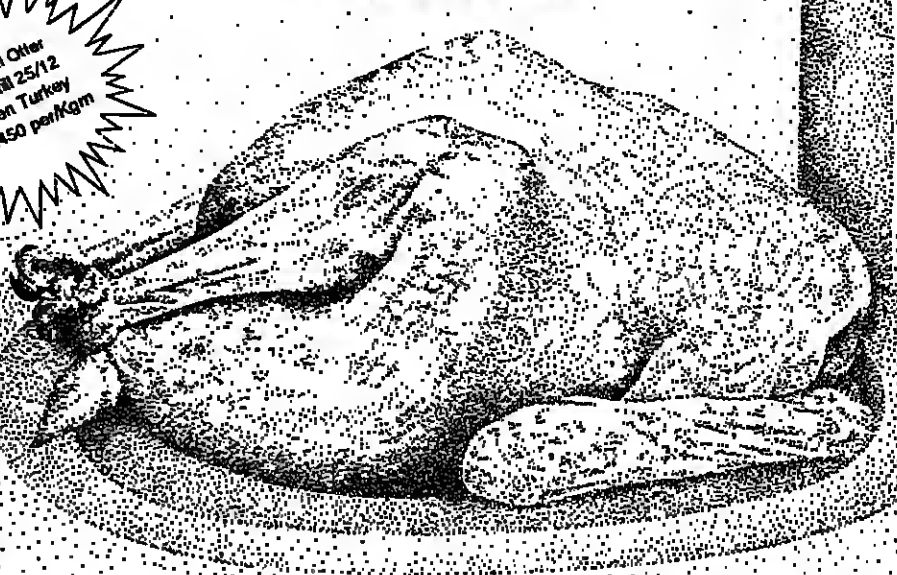


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Yemen riots

(Continued from page 1)

of Taiz to protest against soaring prices. They spread to Sanaa and other cities in the worst disorder

to hit Yemen since the North and South merged in 1990.

Political sources said leaders of the two ruling parties, the General

People's Congress (GPC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and

Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), were meeting to review the unrest.

They said Sanaa was deeply concerned that the rioting would

escalate and spread, further pressuring the government to

deal with the country's growing economic problems.

President Saleh said Wednesday that calls for strikes and

pay rises were justified "yet we are a poor country which needs more

work and production."

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ports



American Michael Chang Saturday reached the final of the Grand Slam Cup after overcoming Goran Ivanovic of Croatia 6-7 (3-7), 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. Germany's Michael Stich, who beat Dutchman Richard Krajnc 7-6, 7-5 in the quarterfinals, was set to play Pete Sampras of the U.S. in the other semifinal. Sampras beat France's Henri Leconte 7-6, 6-4.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

France's Bonaly wins figure skating crown

TOKYO (AP) — Surya Bonaly of France came from behind Saturday with a nearly perfect series of jumps to win the women's singles crown in the NHK trophy international figure skating competition. The 17-year-old Bonaly, who finished fifth in the 1992 Albertville winter Olympics, completed a triple toe loop and other difficult jumps almost effortlessly before 6,400 spectators at Yoyogi National Stadium. Seventeen-year-old Kumiko Koiwai of Japan, who won the world junior champion in Seoul last week, remained in second place with a 4.0 and received the silver medal. Japanese compatriot Kumiko Sato led after technical programme Friday, but after an erratic Saturday slipped to third with a 6.5.

Mansell collects trophy on crutches

PARIS (R) — Nigel Mansell collected his prize as Formula One world champion on crutches. Mansell, who headed a gala night for British motor sport at the annual prize-giving of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), was recovering after a recent operation to remove a bone from his foot. He made a warm speech thanking the Williams team he has left behind to go Indy Car racing in the United States next season. Other prizes went to international Formula 3000 champion Luca Badoer of Italy and world rally champion Carlos Sainz of Spain.

Marseille let Stojkovic free

PARIS (R) — French champions Marseille, forced to choose between two east European players on their books, gave the nod to Miodovan Igor Dobrovolski and let Yugoslav Dragan Stojkovic free. Marseille's embarrassment at having too many foreigners came about when the International Football Federation (FIFA) ruled that midfielder Stojkovic was a Marseille player. The club this week signed Dobrovolski, also a midfielder, on loan from Italian side Genoa. Under French League rules, only two non-European community players can be registered at a club and as Marseille already had Croat striker Alen Boksic, they suddenly found themselves with three.

Former Olympic medalist back in the swim

SHEFFIELD (R) — Britain's Sarah Hardcastle, double Olympic medalist in 1984, made a winning return to competitive swimming after an absence of six years. Hardcastle, 23, won the 400-metre freestyle at the British short-course championships in four minutes 12.28 seconds. In her heyday she won medals at the Olympics, World and European Championships and Commonwealth Games. At the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics she gained silver in the 400 freestyle and bronze in the 800 freestyle.

Stevens suffers another setback

GLASGOW (R) — The injury torment of England defender Gary Stevens worsened when he was ruled out for four to six weeks with a stress fracture of the knee. Stevens was kicked on the knee during his fourth comeback game for Glasgow Rangers December 1 after a long lay off because of a broken foot. The latest reverse will keep Stevens out over the hectic festive period but he could be back when Rangers resume the European Cup trail in March.

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♥ 7 5
♦ 8 3
♣ K Q J 10 9 4

EAST
♠ J 10 5
♥ J 9 8 3 2
♦ A 9 7 4
♣ A 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8 4 3
♥ A K 4
♦ Q 6 2
♣ 8 7 5

The bidding:
North East South West
3♥ Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♥

Just because two cards are equal doesn't mean it makes no difference which you play to a given trick. It depends on what you are trying to achieve—whether you want to conceal the location of a card or reveal it.

South was decidedly optimistic to venture three no trump opposite a non-vulnerable preempt. At least one of the pointed suits had to be inadequately stopped, and there was no guarantee the club suit would

Pistons win 5th straight game; Celtics, Magic lose again

By The Associated Press

THE DETROIT Pistons won their fifth straight game as Joe Dumars scored 20 points and Dennis Rodman grabbed 21 rebounds in a 107-103 victory that extended the Cleveland Cavaliers' losing streak to four.

Rodman, the NBA rebounding leader, has now had seven consecutive games with 20 or more rebounds since returning to the lineup from a suspension.

Brad Daugherty scored 24 points and Rod Williams 19 for the Cavs, who led 60-54 early in the third quarter before going scoreless for a 3:04 span.

The Pistons seized the opportunity. With Isiah Thomas scoring eight of his 21 points and Orlando Woolridge six, the Pistons went on a 21-6 spurt for a 75-66 lead with 3:56 left in the third quarter.

Cleveland closed to 100-97 in the final two minutes, but got no closer.

Suns 108, Magic 107

In Orlando, Florida, reserve forward Tom Chambers scored 27 points and Orlando rookie Shaquille O'Neal missed two of four free throws in the final six seconds, enabling Phoenix to beat the Magic.

The Suns extended their winning streak to six games, while Orlando lost for the sixth consecutive time after an 0-3 start.

Down by two points, the Magic worked the ball to O'Neal on two possessions in the final seconds. He went to the line with 6.5 seconds to play with a chance to tie, and he made one of two foul shots.

After Dan Majerle's free throw

with 6.2 seconds left, O'Neal was fouled with 1.1 seconds remaining. Again with a chance to tie, he again missed one of two.

O'Neal, who finished with 26 points and 17 rebounds, is hitting 53.7 per cent of his free throws this season.

Majerle finished with 22 points for Phoenix, while Charles Barkley had 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Hawks 112, Nuggets 107

In Atlanta, Kevin Willis scored seven of his 25 points in overtime, triggering Atlanta over Denver.

The Hawks, who won their third in a row, scored the first six points of the extra period. Willis threw in a hook shot over Dikembe Mutombo and Dominique Wilkins added four more points for a 105-99 lead.

Willis, who also finished with 22 rebounds, hit another hook for a 107-101 lead and added a 3 pointer from the corner for a 110-103 advantage with 1:20 left.

Wilkins led Atlanta with 33 points, the 11th game this season he's scored more than 30 points.

Reggie Williams led Denver with 27 points and Chris Jackson added 20.

Supersonics 100, Celtics 90

In Boston, Derrick McKey and Gary Payton helped Seattle survive Boston's fourth-quarter comeback and snap a six game losing streak against the Celtics.

The Sonics' biggest lead, 70-53 with 4:31 left in the third quarter, dropped to 79-76 on a three point play by Robert Parish with 8:37 left in the game. But the Celtics, who never led, came no closer.



The Nuggets' Reggie Williams No. 34 scored 27 points for Denver

Payton scored 23 points and McKey 22. The Celtics, whose five-game home winning streak

ended, were led by Reggie Lewis with 19 points and Parish with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Barcelona Games voted top story of 1992

LONDON (AP) — The Barcelona Olympics, the biggest in history and the first of the post cold war era, topped the voting as the No. 1 sports story of 1992 in a worldwide poll of Associated Press subscribers.

The summer event, which brought together some 10,000 athletes from 172 countries, was a runaway winner in the survey of AP newspaper and broadcast subscribers in more than 20 countries outside of North America.

Not only did the Olympics in general dominate the voting, but seven of the other top 20 stories were connected with the games ranging from the success of the "dream team" to the failure of Sergei Bubka.

Sports editors in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and South America took part in the poll, listing their choice of the year's top 20 stories. Points were awarded on a declining scale, with 20 points for a first-place vote and one for a 20th place vote.

The Barcelona games, nearly every voters' top story, received 16 first-place votes for a total of 419 points.

The story which finished second, with 309 points, was far removed from Olympic glory: "It was the jailing of former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson after his conviction for raping a beauty contestant."

Receiving 249 points for third place was the bazzing performance in Barcelona of the U.S. "dream team," the most talented collection of basketball players ever assembled.

In fourth place, trailing the "dream team" by just one point, was underdog Denmark's victory in the European soccer championship. Denmark, which was brought in as a replacement only 11 days before the start of the tournament when Yugoslavia was banned, prevailed over such giants as Germany, the Netherlands and England.

Magic Johnson's second retirement from basketball, which came after other National Basketball Association players expressed fears about playing against someone with the AIDS virus, was voted the fifth top story with 238 points.

Two stories received 220 points to tie for sixth place: South Africa's return to the Olympics after a 32 year exile, and the issue of doping, including the drug suspension of German sprint champion Katrin Krabbe and the court challenges involving suspended 400-metre world-record holder Butch Reynolds.

Carl Lewis, whose 100-metre world record was voted the top sports story of 1991, was in eighth place this year with 216 points. He failed to qualify for the 100 metres in the Olympics but won two gold medals, beating Mike Powell in the long jump and anchoring the U.S. 400-metre relay team to a world record.

Ninth place and 211 points went to Nigel Mansell, who won the Formula One world championship but fell out with the Williams team and moved to the Indycar circuit in the United States for next season.

Rounding out the top 10 with 197 points was Diego Maradona's return to international soccer after a 15-month drug suspension. The Argentine striker made his comeback with Sevilla after leaving Napoli in a \$7.5 million transfer.

Finishing 11th with 173 points

was Bubka, the Ukrainian pole vaulter who broke his own world record several times during the year but failed to clear the bar once in Barcelona.

Barcelona also marked the final appearance of a single team from the former Soviet Union, the "unified team" which topped the medals table. That story got 166 points to finish 12th.

The Toronto Blue Jays' victory in the World Series, which took the U.S. Major League Baseball title outside the United States for the first time, was No. 13 with 125 points. China's emergence as an Olympic power in Barcelona was 14th with 120 points.

Tying for 15 points, with 115 points, were the Winter Olympics in Albertville and Riddick Bowe's defeat of Evander Holyfield for the world heavyweight title.

Rounding out the list were Pakistan's victory in the World Cup of Cricket (112 points), Jim Courier's triumphs at the Australian and French Opens and his ascension to world No. 1 (109), the Wimbledon titles of Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf (106), and Miguel Indurain's victory in the Tour de France (94).

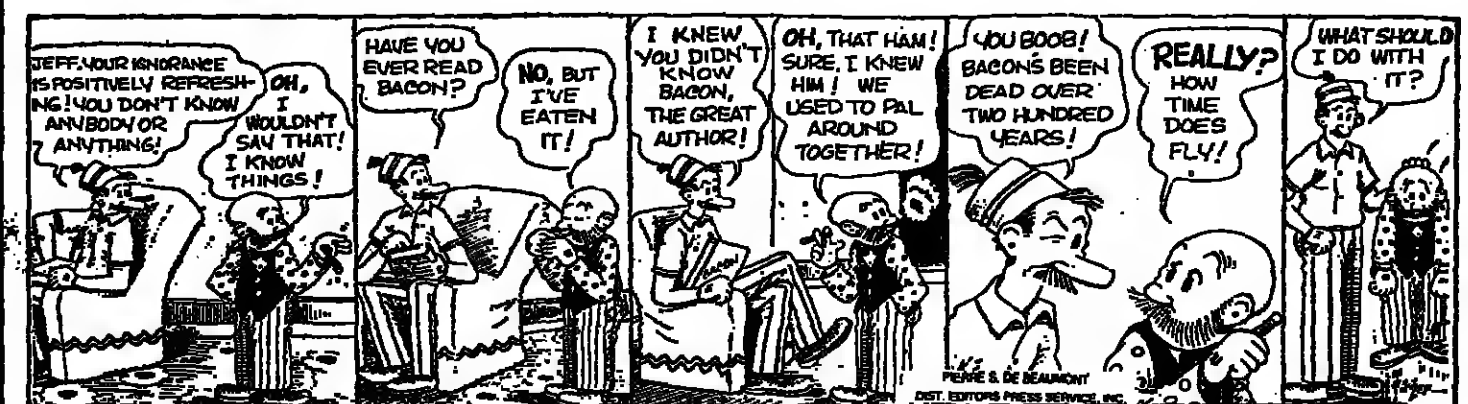
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1992
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Found

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make yourself cheerful by whatever means at your disposal and get rid of those tiresome chores facing you in a philosophical manner and as the same time rid yourself of mistakes making possibilities.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Matters and conditions from a distance can be of first importance to you today and tonight and you would be wise to contact and meet with all influential persons available.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You need to get off alone for a little while to let the very powerful benefit that are waiting to come to the surface to show you what to new success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Friends and acquaintances in all walks of life should be able to now understand your desires and goals and give the forward shove to help you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Contact officials, executives, other outside powerful persons for you can now get their backing for whatever new worldly ambitions you have.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Lots of interesting new ideas and persons can come into your life and if they don't come naturally seek them out for they can be your means for success.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You like to have everything in

perfect working order and can work out a course of which your happier life come true.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You like to weigh and all matters before making a decision but now you are impulsive and brilliant past can raise your sights.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is your day to consider every means command whereby you will to manifest a greater and to space.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are with insight and perceptiveness but now you are reaching out to gain the crown and persons you want to be.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the day to reach out in confidence your own studies to gain advanced in any line is vital progress.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to test your Aquarius at which you are so talented and the means to you so contacts every available son whom you like.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) No person is in an exalted position that they available to you so you, their support and backing, worldly ambitions.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harri



"Stanley did all the laundry for me and now he's got such an attitude!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MARAD

YERME

BANZER

ARMKUP

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

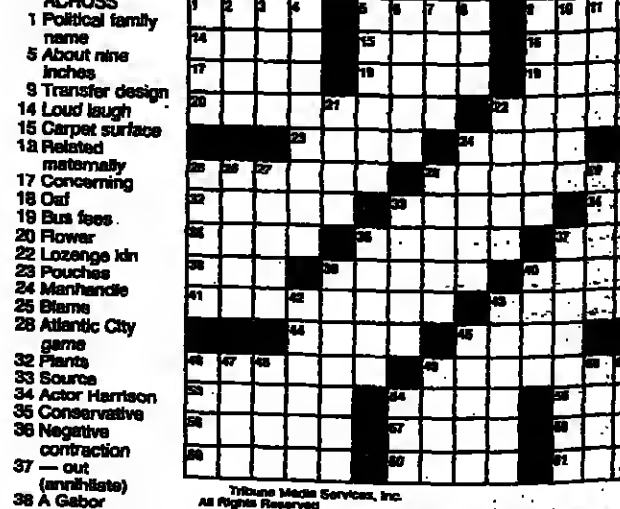
Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: CASTE FAMED STUPID BRANCH

Answer: What a married man makes—A HUSBAND

THE Daily Crossword

by Virginia B. Hopwood



ACROSS
1 Political family name
5 About nine inches
9 Transfer design
14 Loud laugh
15 Carpet surface
18 Related maternally
19 Concerning
20 Out
21 Bus fees
22 Flower
23 Lozenge in
24 Pouches
25 Marianne
26 Stone
28 Atlantic City game
32 Plants
33 Source
34 Actor Harrison
36 Conservative contraction
37 — out (enraptured)
38 A Gator
39 Dashed
40 Certain horse
41 Left go
43 Purple flower
44 Baseball glove
45 — in the
46 Change into

DOWN
1 Math's subj.
2 Excellent
3 Jamie of TV
4 Flac
5 Join
6 Devout
7 Astringent
8 Mouth
9 Fall to perform
10 Allow
11 Sagan
12 File to
13 — we forget
21 Space org.
22 Jeer at
24 Fischer's place
25 In pursuit of
26 Garlic section
27 Deep grove
28 War of the
29 Musical entertainment
30 Wigwag idn
31 Bring to bear
32 Phases
33 Squander
37 Forest
38 Clothing
40 Evergreen
42 Overcast
43 Negated a bit
45 Sarcastic
46 "—, Book and
47 Author Wiesel
48 Vene —
49 Chills and fever

Puzzle Sheet

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12-15

8 p.m.

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Economy

NEC's net profit plunges by 77%

KYO (AP) — NEC Corp., one of Japan's leading high tech companies, has said that its net income for the first half of the fiscal year plunged by 77.3 per cent from a year earlier.

The income amounted to 4.25 billion yen (\$34.3 million) in the first half of the year compared to 10.7 billion yen (\$150.8 million) a year earlier.

The company attributed the plunge to slow sales of computers, automation equipment and electron devices in Japan and abroad.

It said sales in the six months totalled 1.69 trillion yen (\$13.63 billion), down 7.1 per cent compared to 1.82 trillion yen (\$14.7 billion) a year earlier.

Over one million Japanese get paid for doing nothing

TOKYO (R) — Japanese companies hit by falling orders are paying more than one million employees basically to do nothing, a private think-tank reported Saturday.

The number of workers in Japanese industry judged surplus to requirements increased to 1,060,000 in the third quarter of 1992 over the previous three-month period to 1.06 million, said a Nikko Research Centre study quoted by Kyodo News Agency.

No staff at the centre were available for comment.

The report was based on a survey of company production facilities, their operation ratios and growth of productivity per worker as well as optimum staffing levels.

Nikko Research said that if the current economic slowdown dragged on, companies could be forced to cut their work forces, swollen after the boom years of the late 1980s and now a significant cost burden.

Japanese government officials have said that while they recognise industry's problems, the Japanese tradition of holding on to staff in bad times is preferable to laying them off and creating large-scale unemployment, with the risk of social disruption.

Official employment statistics for October showed the number of Japanese already without jobs at 1.45 million, or 2.2 per cent of the workforce.

The think-tank said the current surplus-worker total was more than twice the 490,000 recorded in the late 1970s, amidst the disastrous effects of the 1973 world oil crisis.

The figure stood at 330,000 in the first quarter of 1986, following a serious downturn caused by the sudden appreciation of the yen against other world currencies.

Meanwhile, for the first time in nearly 4-1/2 years, Japan's economy is unable to provide a job for everyone who wants one, the clearest sign yet that recession is starting to sting ordinary Japanese.

The government has announced that the jobs-to-applicants ratio, a closely watched barometer of employment conditions, fell to 0.96 in October from 1.01 the previous month, meaning there were 96 job offers for every 100 applicants.

"Until today there was little visible evidence that the downturn here has had significant social cost," said Paul Summerville, economist at Jardine Fleming Securities. "Labour conditions are now going to put a serious strain on the nation."

The ratio fell below 1.00 for the first time since May 1988 when it stood at 0.98, and matched the

Israel's sale of Bank Mizrahi collapses

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli central bank said Friday the sale of Bank Mizrahi shares to Israeli businessman Gad Ze'evi had collapsed, dealing a serious blow to government efforts to privatise the banking sector.

The deal crumbled after Mr. Ze'evi immediately granted the bank a request to buy a controlling interest in an Israeli bank which the central bank refused.

"He told us he will cancel the agreement if he does not get our permit by Friday to purchase the bank. The permit was not given to him," said central bank spokesman Yoav Lehman.

The daily Haaretz quoted sources close to Mr. Ze'evi Friday as saying the dispute centred on the bank of Israel's insistence on barring Mr. Ze'evi from bringing in partners.

"In this case, Ze'evi said he will not agree to the condition not to bring in a partner," said Mr. Lehman. "We demand stability. Whoever purchases a bank holds it for seven years. He wanted us to allow him to sell in another half year but we did not agree."

Mr. Ze'evi's Trimage Holdings Ltd. signed an agreement with the government on Aug. 13 to purchase a 26 per cent stake in Mizrahi for \$100 million. He took an option to buy an additional 25 per cent by September 1993 for \$85 million and up to 70 per cent thereafter.

The agreement was to have been the labour government's first step towards privatising the state-owned banks.

Mr. Ze'evi deposited \$10 million in the Israeli Treasury in August. It was not immediately clear if the deposit would be returned.

In 1983, the government bailed out most major banks after disclosure of extensive share manipulation sent stock prices crashing.

The government owns 97 per cent of Bank Mizrahi, the country's fourth largest bank. Its former majority owners, the Orthodox Jewish Mizrahi Movement, own three per cent.

Frankfurt bourse votes to set up central exchange

FRANKFURT (R) — The bankers and brokers who own the Frankfurt Stock Exchange voted overwhelmingly Friday to convert the bourse into a centralised market to try to make Germany more competitive as a financial trading centre.

They backed motions at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting to raise the bourse's equity capital, increase the size of its supervisory board and change its name to Deutsche Boerse A.G. from Jan. 1.

They also approved plans to buy Germany's DTB futures exchange and its clearing and settlement house, DKV, which will become independent subsidiaries of Deutsche Boerse.

Frankfurt bourse chief executive Ruediger von Rosen told a news conference the changes would make the bourse more competitive internationally by bringing together into one company all the stages of all types of securities transactions.

"Deutsche Boerse can create a decisive competitive advantage for itself if we succeed in optimising (the interrelation) of cash and derivative markets and settlement," he said.

"Our foreign competitors so far only successfully offer parts of this chain of services."

Supervisory board chairman Friedrich von Metzler said that the changed structure also meant that investment in new technology could be made centrally. Previously Germany's eight regional exchanges had planned such expenditure separately.

Outside of Frankfurt, Germany also has stock exchanges in Berlin, Bremen, Dusseldorf, Hamburg, Hannover, Munich and Stuttgart. Following the vote Friday, they will jointly hold a 10 per cent stake in Deutsche Boerse from January.

"The necessary investment for (technical improvements) is only viable on a (nationwide) basis," he said.

Mr. von Metzler plans to resign from his current positions as chairman of the bourse board and supervisory board in January.

Deutsche Bank board member Rolf Breuer is expected to be voted in as his successor as supervisory board chairman at the next supervisory board meeting on Jan. 18.

Slovaks say bad image keeps investors away

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (R) — Foreign investment in Slovakia shrank sharply in the first nine months of this year and Slovak officials blame their reputation's bleak image abroad.

Figures compiled by the Slovak National Agency for Foreign Investment and Development showed foreigners put \$218 million into Slovakia between last January and September, representing just 7.7 per cent of total cash from abroad in Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak federation is due to split into independent Czech and Slovak states on Jan. 1.

In 1991, Slovakia attracted 27 per cent of the foreign capital poured into Czechoslovakia.

Peter Repka of the National Investment Agency said in an interview the main obstacle in the way of foreign investment for Slovakia was its unfavourable image abroad.

"The greatest problem for Slovakia is to get a potential investor...to cross the barrier of negative pictures of Slovakia. Once they are here, they are surprised that things are normal here, that there are no riots or nationalist propaganda."

Slovakia, the smaller, economically weaker of the two Czechoslovak republics, has been a focus of international media attention recently because of a bitter public row with Hungary over the Gabčíkovo dam on the Danube.

Despite Slovakia's image problems, Mr. Repka said, prospects for continued foreign investment were considered bright in Bratislava, the Slovak capital.

He pointed to cheap labour — a skilled machine operator, for example, earns a tenth of the wage paid in Austria — low operating costs and tax concessions as investment incentives.

While 55 per cent of the foreign investment to date is in the manufacturing and building industries, Slovak officials say there are promising opportunities for foreigners also in tourist projects in the Tatras mountains and agriculture.

Slovak figures show Germany tops the list of foreign investors in Slovakia with 27 per cent of total investment capital, followed by Austria, the United States and Netherlands.

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 10/12/92	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 11/12/92
Sterling Pound	1.5550	1.5560
Deutsche Mark	1.5792	1.5780
Swiss Franc	1.4090	1.4070
French Franc	5.3965	5.3935
Japanese Yen	123.65	123.87
European Currency Unit	1.2413**	1.2451

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.43	3.50	3.68	4.00
Sterling Pound	7.19	7.06	6.81	6.66
Deutsche Mark	9.12	8.87	8.50	7.87
Swiss Franc	6.06	6.25	5.81	5.50
French Franc	10.87	10.87	10.00	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.75	3.68	3.65
European Currency Unit	11.15	10.95	10.18	9.51

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	335.25	6.80	Silver	3.73	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.668	0.690
Sterling Pound	1.0706	1.0760
Deutsche Mark	0.4351	0.4373
Swiss Franc	0.4885	0.4909
French Franc	0.1275	0.1281
Japanese Yen	0.5545	0.5573
Bank Guilder	0.3667	0.3686
Swedish Krona	0.1010	0.1015
Israeli Lira	0.0493	0.0495
Belgian Franc	0.02173	0.02184

Currency	Bid	Offer
Saudi Dinar	1.7990	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.03525	0.03625
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2850	2.3000
Omani Riyal	0.1864	0.1874
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7690
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1874
Greek Drachma	0.3292	0.3392
Cypriot Pound	1.4515	1.4625

JAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	2/12/92	Close	9/12/92	Close
All-Share	166.35		166.04	
Banking Sector	120.24		119.65	
Insurance Sector	182.96		182.92	
Industry Sector	226.58		227.21	
Services Sector	237.45		235.62	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3,303	3,800	3,700	3,740
JORDAN KIBLAT BANK	25,503	2,490	2,500	2,450
THE HOUSING BANK	123,890	3,580	3,610	3,670
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	84,459	5,140	5,140	5,110
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	6,359	3,130	3,140	3,170
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	25,576	4,140	4,140	4,130
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	337	4,500	4,420	4,420
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	32,819	1,670	1,670	1,640
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	22,878	1,000	1,000	1,000
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	37,111	4,200	4,200	4,120
BUSINESS BANK	25,458	2,200	2,200	2,170
SEIT ELHAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	36,461	5,540	5,550	5,450
ARAB BANK	9,830	119,000	119,000	119,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT	3,875	3,100	3,100	3,100
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	5,760	3,700	3,700	3,700
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	17,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
JORDAN FRANCH INSURANCE	10,919	3,380	3,340	3,350
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	46,005	3,140	3,120	3,150
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	3,600	3,450	3,500	3,600
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	623	4,980	5,230	5,230
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	64,962	1,490	1,450	1,450
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	10,846	6,050	6,000	6,100
ELIVESTOR & HOLDING	18,995	1,240	1,240	1,220
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	4,873	3,330	3,320	3,320
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDODOM HOTELS	118,783	2,630	2,620	2,590
JORDAN HOLIDAY CORPORATION	6,394	0,590	0,620	0,620
MACHINERY MOUNT. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	89,620	1,200	1,280	1,310
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	18,284	1,240	1,220	1,220
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	28,488	0,920	0,910	0,910
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1,360	1,420	1,390	1,360
JORDAN EXPORT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	281,285	1,580	1,580	2,000
ARAB FIBER CONVERTING & TRADING	27,150	1,700	1,700	1,640
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	70,093	10,820	10,750	10,650
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	156,841	6,870	6,830	6,780
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	45,513	6,240	6,200	6,120
ARAB CHEMICAL DETENTIONS INDUSTRIES	11,373	22,100	22,500	22,600
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	49,361	5,850	5,980	5,820
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	114,480	9,800	9,800	9,870
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	42,656	4,020	3,970	3,970
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	145,908	10,300	11,050	10,350
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	69,894	0,920	0,920	0,920
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	267,457	4,330	4,310	4,260
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	49,273	1,040	1,040	1,040
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	15,956	12,200	12,200	12,320
NAFIS INDUSTRIES	7,840	3,200	3,200	3,200
MOORE INDUSTRIES	3,824	2,580	2,550	2,560
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATCH/JINCO	26,990	1,340	1,320	1,300
SPINNING & WEAVING	124,594	2,210	2,200	2,150
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JINCO	2,655	2,700	2,660	2,650
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	88,222	6,750	6,700	6,650
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	29,260	4,880	4,880	4,870
JORDAN ROADS INDUSTRIES	386,225	1,700	1,680	1,670
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	27,921	2,480	2,470	2,440
UNIVERSAL WOODEN INDUSTRIES	260,701	0,610	0,610	0,640
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	269,024	5,790	5,790	5,750
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	209,031	3,120	3,100	3,110
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	15,476	8,680	8,680	8,600

GRAND TOTAL	3,896,490
NO. OF TRADING SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	13500
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	JD 29828

Gold jewellery demand outpaces supply in 1992

FRANKFURT (R) — Demand for gold jewellery, which has outstripped production from Western mines for the last three years, will exceed supply by nearly 500 tonnes in 1992, the World Gold Council (WGC) has said.

Bryan Parker, manager for Jewellery Business Planning, told a group of gold bankers that over the last three years demand had outpaced Western output by a total of 850 tonnes.

"And in 1992, demand for jewellery appears likely to exceed Western mine production by almost 500 tonnes," he said.

Mr. Parker, speaking at the third annual WGC gold bankers meeting, said that gold used in jewellery fabrication has increased to 2,111 tonnes in 1991 from 800 tonnes in 1981.

Demand in the developing markets in South East Asia — in Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore — had doubled to 1,650 tonnes over the last four years, he said.

"These countries enjoy high economic growth rates," of an average rise in gross domestic product (GDP) of seven per cent annually, he said. "Second, these markets are liberalising their gold markets and this is releasing pent-up demand."

Mr. Parker said there was a vast potential for gold jewellery in China. At the moment demand in China was 250 tonnes per year, but he said using the per capita consumption in Taiwan and Hong Kong as a base that demand could exceed 9,000 tonnes per year.

"This is of course highly speculative, but gives you an indication of the long-term potential," he said.

The WGC, an association of gold producers based in Switzerland, has 63 members in 12 countries.

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Yeltsin, congress reach accord Russia to hold referendum on April 11

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament chairman Khasbulatov told reporters Saturday he had reached agreement with President Boris Yeltsin on ways of breaking a constitutional deadlock gripping Russia.

"I think we have agreed," said the chairman of Russia's supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies. "Naturally it's up to the congress to decide. But I think we have agreed... on all the documents."

The two men met Saturday morning for talks mediated by Constitutional Court Chairman Valery Zorkin. They will present their conclusions to the conservative-dominated congress later.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said before the talks started that the president had sacked top aide radical Gennady Burbulis, a hate figure for conservatives. Mr. Khasbulatov denied the move was seen as a concession.

"The fact that the president got rid of the services of Burbulis... is his problem and it should not be considered a concession to anyone," he replied.

Mr. Yeltsin triggered the crisis Thursday when he denounced congress for blocking his reforms

and demanded a referendum be held on who ruled Russia. On Friday, congress changed the law to make such a referendum illegal.

Valery Rumin, head of Ryazan's Regional Administration and one of the seven members of Mr. Yeltsin's negotiating team, said the two sides had agreed on an April 11 date for a referendum adopting the guidelines of a new post-Soviet constitution.

He said agreement had been reached on how to appoint a new prime minister. The congress last week decided not to confirm Mr. Yeltsin's candidate, Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, in his job.

Congress deputies proposed a series of alternative, and more conservative, candidates for prime minister during the morning.

They included Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, who has sharply criticised Mr. Yeltsin during more than a week of political crisis, powerful Security Council chief Yuri Skokov and two key industrialists who became deputy prime ministers in the summer.

Liberal First Deputy Parliament Chairman Sergei Filatov, a Yeltsin sympathiser who is Mr.

Khasbulatov's deputy in Russia's standing parliament, told reporters Mr. Khasbulatov had asked him to resign.

Asked whether he would, Mr. Filatov answered: "That's up to congress to decide."

Deputies also challenged U.N. sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state in a first sign of the international implications of the current power struggle.

Conservative deputies say the government's radical reforms, aimed at reshaping Russia, are destroying it instead.

Mr. Rumin said the 36-year-old Gaidar, also present at the talks, was ready to be flexible and even to resign if Mr. Yeltsin deemed it necessary.

"The figure of premier is not the most important issue. I am prepared, if necessary, to resign today," he quoted Mr. Gaidar — still acting premier — as saying.

A survey of about 500 Muscovites conducted over the past two days showed half the capital agreed with Mr. Yeltsin's angry complaint it had become impossible to go on working with the mutinous congress. Just over a quarter disagreed.

Russia's five-man security council had held an extraordinary meeting Saturday morning, Mr.

Kostikov said. He gave no further details.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, a key member of Mr. Yeltsin's negotiating team, was not present at the closed talks.

"As you know he is undergoing medical treatment these days," Mr. Kostikov told reporters.

Mr. Grachev, who suffers from a mild heart complaint, turned up at congress Thursday to explain his reaction to Mr. Yeltsin's statement calling for a referendum. In a brief speech he said the army would stay out of politics.

Meanwhile conservatives in the Congress of People's Deputies are striking back at the liberal Russian media, infuriated by what they call hostile coverage of their struggle with President Yeltsin for control of Russia.

"We, the people's deputies, are extremely indignant at the unbridled anti-congress propaganda which is continually put out by the mass media," said a petition presented Saturday morning, calling for deputies to protest against "defamation."

U.N. plans attempt to make Bosnian truce stick

SARAJEVO (R) — General Philippe Morillon, commander of U.N. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, said Saturday he planned a fresh attempt to persuade warring Muslim, Croat and Serb forces to stop fighting.

Sarajevo, besieged by Serbs since April, has suffered some of the worst bloodshed of the war during the last two weeks despite a ceasefire agreed by military leaders of the three sides a month ago.

Some fighting continued in and around frontline Muslim towns in north and central Bosnia Saturday as well as in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo Radio reported.

Shells thudded near Gen. Morillon's headquarters in the city as he told reporters he would meet the military envoys again Sunday to press them for a clear commitment to the ceasefire and the safe passage of U.N. relief operations.

"Now it is up to the leaders to pay more than lip service to the peace process," he said. "We are in a vicious circle and we have to try to break this circle."

Displaying an optimism which has survived the breakdown of all

the ceasefires agreed so far, he added: "I'm not a magician, I'm not a prophet, but I think the conditions are established for negotiations."

Gen. Morillon described the scale of the fighting in Sarajevo, which has forced the United Nations to close its air bridge to the trapped population of some 380,000, as disappointing but not discouraging, although serious damage had been needlessly caused to utilities.

With temperatures down to freezing point, most of Sarajevo is without electricity, water and heating and residents are chopping down trees for fuel.

Gen. Morillon said ceasefire violations did not prevent the United Nations successfully routing aid convoys by road into Sarajevo and besieged Muslim towns such as Srebrenica, Gorazde and Tuzla which were previously cut off.

"I don't hesitate to affirm that we can be proud of what we have accomplished," he added. "We have absolutely no pretension to be the saviour of Bosnia-Herzegovina... as far as providing humanitarian assistance is

concerned, we didn't fail and we have done that without using force."

Gen. Morillon disclosed the United Nations protection force (UNPROFOR) had prepared contingency plans to protect its 7,500 troops in Bosnia if the West decided to intervene militarily against the dominant Serbs, who control 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav Republic.

He declined to say what the measures were or what recommendations UNPROFOR commanders had made, although they are known to fear that intervention would expose their lightly-armed forces to Serb reprisals.

The Bosnian Government Crisis Centre in Sarajevo reported that the registered number of dead during the war was now 17,622 in Muslim and Croat controlled areas and 2,924 in Sarajevo.

Sarajevo radio said fighting in the capital during the night was light after intensive clashes over the last four days, during which Muslims said they had captured a strategic hill overlooking the

Serb-held suburb of Ilidza and satellite town of Vogosca.

A Bosnian Serb army spokesman denied the hill had been captured.

Meanwhile U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday the United States may be ready to support a U.N. proposal to deploy peacekeepers to Macedonia to help prevent fighting in former Yugoslavia from spreading.

"I think... it's certainly worth considering," he said in reply to a question about the proposal at a Brussels news conference.

Speaking after a meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence ministers, he said efforts were focusing on preventing what he called the "internationalisation" of the conflict.

The Hague Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, called for military intervention to stop the killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I do not give a damn who takes the initiative," he told parliament. "I just think it is scandalous that we can do it in Somalia and not in Yugoslavia."

India assesses damage from riots

NEW DELHI (AP) — Curfews were lifted at daybreak Saturday in many riot-hit areas of India after the worst Hindu-Muslim violence since independence.

More than 1,100 people were reported killed in the upheaval that began Monday, the day after Hindu extremists destroyed a 16th-century mosque in the holy town of Ayodhya. The actual death toll may be much higher.

Police opened fire to break up a stone throwing mob in north-east Bombay, but the rest of India's largest city was returning to normal, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

In the Seelampur district of New Delhi, Muslim residents recovered two bodies Saturday morning after Hindu mobs rampaged through the crowded streets Thursday night and Friday. One victim's body was charged beyond recognition by the fire that consumed his home.

The other was hit by police bullets, a relative said.

Three people were wounded. Hundreds of police and paramilitary troops patrolled in streets littered with broken bricks, shattered glass and the black stains of firebombs.

Hindu neighbourhoods were guarded by young men carrying heavy bamboo staves.

Meanwhile, train service resumed between India and Pakistan, India's Muslim neighbours. Dozens of people were killed in Pakistan as mobs burned Hindu temples in revenge for the mosque's destruction.

India was assessing the political and economic cost of the turmoil.

There appeared to be no immediate threat to the government, but reports noted dissent within the governing Congress Party about Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's handling of the crisis.

Many feared that worldwide news coverage of the week long crisis would scare away investors at a time when the government is reforming its economy to

accommodate international business.

Industry around the country virtually halted, and Bombay, the nation's commercial heart, has been paralysed.

The Economic Times reported a 25 per cent cancellation rate by tourists who had planned to come to India in December and January, and said the figure may rise to 40 per cent. Tourism is one of the nation's biggest foreign currency earners.

Travel advisories by the U.S., British and Japanese governments warned tourists away from India, and some insurance companies were refusing to cover people coming here, the report said.

Recurring violence and political instability has kept India's international credit rating low.

Prime Minister Rao said Friday business would return to normal within a few days, and the effect of rioting would be "a temporary setback."

U.N. seeks views on larger Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly, reflecting wide support for increasing the membership of the 15-nation Security Council, asked the secretary-general Friday to solicit the views of all U.N. members on this issue.

The resolution was introduced by India on behalf of 37 countries and approved without a vote.

It is seen as the opening shot in a campaign likely to grow in coming years.

The resolution's sponsors were mainly Third World states but also included Japan and Brazil, two countries with hopes of obtaining permanent Council membership.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is asked to prepare a report for next year's Assembly session, on the basis of members' views.

The Security Council, freed from cold war restraints, has grown increasingly powerful in recent years, becoming involved in a mounting number of issues affecting international peace and security.

Spurred also by the growth in U.N. membership to 179, compared with 51 when the organisation was founded, calls have mounted for an increase in the size of the Council.

Its five permanent members, each with the power of veto, are the victorious powers of World War II: the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China.

The 10 non-permanent members serve for two-year terms, five being elected each year.

Friday's resolution was the first adopted by the Assembly since the issue was first inscribed on its

agenda in 1979 under the title "question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council."

Debate on the topic was deferred in subsequent years.

Economic superpowers such as Germany and Japan, as well as regional powers such as Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Nigeria have been mentioned as possible candidates for more or less permanent Council seats.

Any change in Council membership — increased in 1965 from 11 to 15 — would require amending the U.N. Charter, over which the existing permanent members would have a veto.

Some diplomats say 1995, when the United Nations marks its 50th anniversary, is a likely date for changing the composition of the Council.

Miyazawa pledges political reform

TOKYO (R) — Scandal-battered Kiichi Miyazawa, one of Japan's most unpopular prime ministers, pledged Saturday to win back popular support with a new cabinet and a blueprint for political reform.

Yet one day after reshuffling his government, Mr. Miyazawa awoke to loud criticism over his decision to name several figures either with links to Sagawa Kyubin, the trucking firm at the centre of a politically disastrous cash-and-gangsters scandal, or tainted by previous funding scams.

He also came under attack for placing Seiichiro Kaijima, an outspoken opponent of political

reform, in the key post of secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Mr. Miyazawa, looking confident and smiling broadly, shrugged off the disapproval before leaving for the imperial palace where his cabinet was later sworn in by Emperor Akihito.

"I think this gives me the chance to start over again in overhauling politics," Mr. Miyazawa told reporters.

"The most important task will be to tackle political reform... it's something that must be done."

In his first order of business, Mr. Miyazawa summoned the new cabinet and ordered minis-

ters to stick to government affairs and refrain from fund-raising or other political activities, according to Yohei Kono, the new government spokesman.

"The cabinet has been asked to practise restraint in these matters because of the current climate of distrust," he said.

Public anger has reached new heights in the wake of almost daily disclosures of shady links fostered by Sagawa executives between leading LDP figures and the boss of a crime syndicate.

Indignation was already high after LDP powerbroker Shiro Kanemaru admitted taking half a billion yen (\$4 million) in illegal political donations from Sagawa.

N. Korea calls off talks with South

SEOUL (R) — North Korea has rejected a Southern offer to hold a planning meeting next week to lay the ground for inter-Korean talks at prime ministerial level later this month, a Southern spokesman said.

"It is almost certain the prime ministers' talks will not take place as scheduled," the spokesman said after receiving the news by telephone from Pyongyang.

He said North Korea had demanded cancellation of the "Team Spirit" joint U.S.-South Korean military war games planned for next year before the preparatory meeting, originally proposed by Seoul, could proceed.

A ninth round of talks at prime ministerial level had been slated for Dec. 21-24 in Seoul, but chilling relations between the two Koreas put the meeting in doubt.

North Korea Friday announced its Prime Minister Yon Hyong-Muk had been replaced by a veteran former premier, Kang Song-San, and the unexpected leadership reshuffle raised further doubts about the planned talks.

Mr. Yon was best known outside North Korea in his role as negotiator with the South at eight previous rounds of inter-Korean talks.

Relations between the two Koreas have turned frosty since the South announced in October it would in 1993 resume the annual "Team Spirit" war game

with the United States.

This year's round of Team Spirit was cancelled during a spell of warming ties, fueling hopes that real moves were being made towards North-South détente.

The North said no progress could be made until the exercise, which it considers to be a dress rehearsal for invasion of the North, be cancelled.

But the South responded by saying Team Spirit would go ahead unless the Pyongyang authorities allowed Seoul to inspect its nuclear facilities.

South Korea and its Western allies allege Pyongyang is on the verge of producing, or has already developed, nuclear weapons, a charge the North denies.

Clinton to step down as governor

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — With his Washington term taking shape, President-Elect Bill Clinton was set to step down as Arkansas governor after serving as chief executive of the small southern state for a dozen years.

Aides said Mr. Clinton would turn over state leadership to Jim Gny Tucker, his second-in-command for the past year, at a late afternoon ceremony at the state capital.

The transfer of power will mark the end of an era in Arkansas where Mr. Clinton has been governor, with a two-year interruption, since 1978.

Mr. Clinton who does not own a home, leaves for Washington next month to take over the U.S. presidency from George Bush on Jan. 20.

Mr. Clinton, who soundly defeated Mr. Bush in the Nov. 3 election, continued a flurry of announcements on the new administration's economic team. On Thursday, he named a clutch of Washington and Wall Street insiders to key posts to reassure Congress and financial markets that cutting the U.S. budget deficit is one of his priorities.

He followed that up Friday by announcing his choices for other

key policy posts and was considering making another round of appointments Saturday.

In appointments designed to start fulfilling a pledge to put more women and minorities in positions of influence, Mr. Clinton Friday named:

— University of Wisconsin Chancellor Donna Shalala as secretary of health and human services.

— Florida environmentalist Carol Browner to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

— University of California economist Laura Tyson to chair the president's Council of Economic Advisers.

He also named old friend Robert Reich, a Harvard University lecturer who heads his economic policy planning transition team, to be labour secretary, elevating the importance of a department that had little influence under Mr. Bush and his predecessor Ronald Reagan.

"They promise to bring energy, dynamism and fresh thinking to the task of carrying out our mandate for change," Mr. Clinton said of his second group of appointees.

The selections were more diverse than the ones the president

elect announced Thursday, led by Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen for treasury secretary and Representative Leon Panetta as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Congressional and transition sources said that the former mayor of San Antonio, Henry Cisneros, a Hispanic American, was likely to be named to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development, becoming Mr. Clinton's first minority appointee.

They said Colorado Senator Tim Wirth was the leading candidate to become energy secretary, and that former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt had the inside track for the Interior Department.

The sources said Mr. Clinton may also name his commerce secretary, rounding out his economic team. Apple computer chief John Sculley, who was among Mr. Clinton's Republican supporters in the presidential campaign, and Democratic Party Chairman Ron Brown were possible choices, they said.

Mr. Brown, who was in Little Rock Friday to meet Mr. Clinton, had also been mentioned as a possibility for the post of U.N. ambassador.

Other significant public endeavors

Separate table Charles and at summit

EDINBURGH (R) — A dramatic royal setback into a "summit" (EC) summit estranged couple we separate tables for the 12 EC leaders.

royal yacht Britannia Charles, heir to the throne, and the German princess Diana, who came queen one arrangement, was table, separated mother-in-law, Queen by French President Mitterrand, who refused to both of them was the first official prince and princess together since Mr. Major's marriage they were, but not divorce. The queen's only daughter, the Greek and Irish, it is normal prior senior royals to p different tables. D Minister Paul Scott country's problem Maastricht treaty sit of the two-day summit a place of honour queen.

Disarming the
Egyptians at

SARAJEVO (R) — Egyptian soldiers and U.N. Protection Force Bosnian capital were prayers in the city's que. According to a prefer to remain and soldiers had to leave their armoured personnel which had no lock, he returned the weapons Suspecting the Bosnians, who are worried by the besieging Egyptians went to the chief of complaint. He: "We are all Muslims, you weapons and not taken them away."

Stephanie's
gets suspended
jail sentence

NICE, France (AP) — Princess Stephanie son has received a suspended sentence and 4,000 franc fine for assaulting a traffic dispute. June 28, the princess' former bodyguard, was at to pay 1,000 francs (80 Christian Raymond, a damaging his car. Mr. Ducruet has a doctor of tailgating flashing his headlights full but typical French manoeuvre last January near Nice. Witnesses saw two cars eventually pull road and that Mr. Ducruet beat the doctor's and beat the doctor's Mr. Ducruet did not the French court thus the ruling was handed incident added to evidence has a hot temper wheel. Last month, he charged with assaulting farmer whose car he blocked a mountain France, north of the riveria principality. He suffered injuries that is seven-day hospital stay; hearings are expected next month. The case incidents belonged to Stephanie, who gave a weeks to her first Louis. The princess has to marry Mr. Ducruet date has been set.

9 get U.S. Medal
of Freedom

WASHINGTON (R) — cast survivor Ella Fitzgerald, singer Ella Fitzgerald and I.M. Pei were among the 12 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Others receiving the honor career diplomat Harry S. Truman, master violinist Jascha Heifetz, General John Vessey, four-star combat vet World War II to active duty, comedian Carson, and stock market Richard Petty. The Medal of Freedom, established in 1963, is the country's civilian award. It is granted person who has made an meritorious contribution national security of States, world peace, or other significant public endeavors.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge throws out charge against Weinberger

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. judge threw out a charge brought by the special prosecutor in the Iran-contra case accusing former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger of lying to Congress about the affair. The charge, brought a few days before the Nov. 3 presidential election, caused a furor because it included information suggesting President George Bush knew far more than he had admitted about secret arms sales to Iran in 1985-86. U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan ruled the charge had to be dismissed because the alleged lying by Mr. Weinberger when he testified to a congressional investigating committee took place in 1987 and the statute of limitations has expired. Mr. Weinberger still faces four other criminal charges arising from his role in the affair. His trial is scheduled to start on Jan. 5. Iran-contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh said the case against Mr. Weinberger would proceed.

Toxic waste said dumped in Germany

ZURICH (R) — A European Parliament member said at least 150 tonnes of highly-toxic waste from the 1976 Seveso disaster were secretly dumped in former east Germany, but the company responsible for the plant denied the allegation. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, which owned the Seveso plant at the time, said all toxic waste had been disposed of in Italy or Switzerland, and it could be accounted for in minute detail. The Italian town of Seveso made world headlines in July 1976 when an explosion at a plant run by then Roche subsidiary, Icmesa, spewed dioxin into the air, killing farm animals and causing skin disease among locals. Paul Staes, a member of Belgium's environmentalist Agalev Party, told a news conference in Brussels Friday: "A load of 150 tonnes of dioxin-containing waste from Seveso has ended up on the famous Schoenberg chemical waste dump." He produced documents which he said he had obtained from the archives of the Stasi, the former east German security police. He said they proved that the dioxin, packed in barrels with salt and polymers, had ended up in Schoenberg in former east Germany, just seven kilometres from the city of Luebeck. But Roche rejected the charge.

U.N. agencies receive Earth Prize

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were recipients of the 1992 Earth Prize, presented at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 8. The annual award was established last year to pay tribute to leadership and excellence in service to the earth, humanity and the environment. William H. Draper III accepted the award for UNDP. Maurice Strong, former UNCED secretary-general received the prize on behalf of the environment conference. As executive director of UNEP, Dr. Mustafa Tolba accepted the award for his agency. In accepting the prize, Mr. Draper stated that UNDP believes a balance can be achieved between environmental preservation and economic growth. "For the developing countries in particular, growth is not an option. It is an imperative," he said. "The challenge will be to help these countries grow in a way that their natural resource base is preserved." Mr. Draper added that one of the most critical initiatives to come out of the Rio Conference is Capacity 21, a programme that will help build the capacities of developing

countries themselves to plan and manage sustainable growth. "With the generous support of the donor community, UNDP is helping to move this new undertaking forward in countries around the globe," said Mr. Draper.

U.N. authorises troops for Macedonia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council took its first major step in preventive peacekeeping by authorising immediate deployment of 700 troops for Macedonia to ensure fighting in former Yugoslavia does not spread. The resolution, adopted late Friday by a 15-0 unanimous vote, endorses proposals by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali which also call for 35 military observers and 26 civilian police if Macedonia gives formal approval. The peacekeepers are to monitor Macedonia's borders with Albania and Serbia's Kosovo province, which is dominated by ethnic Albanians challenging Belgrade's rule. Macedonia fears that if fighting breaks out in Kosovo, it would spill over into Macedonia with Albanian forces using Macedonian roads to reach their kinsmen in Serbia. They would probably be supported by ethnic Albanians in Macedonia, who form the majority of the population on several of the republic's border areas with Albania and Serbia.

Quake kills 30 in Indonesia

JAKARTA (AP) — A powerful earthquake Saturday knocked down scores of buildings and triggered a seismic wave that killed dozens of people in a town in eastern Indonesia, officials said. Many houses were destroyed and rescue workers were afraid to start digging under rubble for victims because of frequent aftershocks, they said. "The impact of the earthquake was devastating. About 80 per cent of the town of Maumere has been destroyed," said Alex Dady, a town official. The provincial government estimated the death toll at 30, while others put it at 50. "The toll could be higher," said Sariman, the chief of the Regional Geophysics Station. The earthquake struck East Nusa Tenggara province at 1:29 p.m. (0529 GMT) and measured a preliminary 6.8 on the Richter Scale. Mr. Sariman said. A quake of that strength is capable of causing severe damage. Meteorological officials in Japan measured the earthquake at 7.2 on the Richter Scale.

Envoys walk out of Kenyan celebrations

NAIROBI (R) — Four Western ambassadors walked out of Kenya's main independence celebrations Saturday, accusing President Daniel Arap Moi of turning the event into a political rally for the embattled ruling party. The action by the ambassadors of the United States, Germany, Sweden and Denmark visibly angered Mr. Moi and heightened political tensions in the East African country only weeks before it holds its first multi-party elections in 26 years. "It is an understanding among ambassadors to make it a point not to attend political rallies. This celebration was swiftly being turned into a campaign rally by KANU so the envoys decided to leave," a spokesman at the U.S. embassy said. Mr. Moi, who bowed to intense Western pressure to end one-party rule of his Kenya African National Union (KANU) and allowed multi-party politics a year ago, said he was disappointed by the envoys' action. The walkout, he said, "shows they are partial — in which case Kenya cannot expect to see free and fair elections."